Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-94-153 *9 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Talks Held in al-'Aqabah

Talks Begin

JN0808114794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn chaired the Jordanian side to talks with the American and Israeli sides at the Royal Palace in al-'Aqabah this afternoon. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and other senior officials attended the talks on the Jordanian side. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres attended the talks for Israel, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and some of members of his delegation attended them for the U.S. side.

His Majesty King Husayn and his guests are expected to hold a news conference at the conclusion of their session of talks in order to talk about the peace process and the outcome of these talks. Following the news conference, the king will accompany the guests on a sea tour in the Gulf of al-'Aqabah.

News Conference Held

JN0808134794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1137 GMT 8 Aug 94

[News conference by King Husayn of Jordan, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Royal Palace in al-'Aqabah—live]

[Text] [Husayn] Good afternoon. I would wish to begin by expressing my warmest welcome to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and to all our friends who join with us today in this meeting here in al-'Aqabah in Jordan, and who have taken part in yet another step which was agreed upon, the inauguration of the road link between al-'Aqabah and Elat for tourists and visitors to use in the times to come. We've had the chance to look at all the progress that has been achieved so far, in terms of the Washington Declaration. I've had an opportunity to express once again our appreciation of President Clinton's hospitality, of the warmth with which we were received, both Prime Minister Rabin and I, in Washington, and all the support that we received, and we feel as we address you today that we are friends and partners, moving with determination, vision, commitment towards building the foundations for a comprehensive peace in this region, but, essentially, moving to address all the problems that need to be faced and addressed adequately to ensure that beyond words, deeds occur that can transform this region to what it should be.

I would like to seize the opportunity in addressing our Israeli viewers on this occasion to say that I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity, once again, to reiterate what not only I feel, but I am proud of the overwhelming majority of the people of Jordan feel, in terms of a commitment to peace and to the future that is the right of generations to come to enjoy and protect and thrive under. It is really hard at times to believe that so much has happened in a very short space of time. Yesterday, today I was recalling that it was only two weeks ago that the first meetings took place, here on our common border, and almost just about that since we received the kind invitation to visit Washington, and our visit there. But we are determined, and we are committed, and we are confident that with God's blessings we will fulfill our duties toward generations to come, and live in peace, the kind of peace that I have felt with myself is something I have never experienced over the many, many years that have passed.

I hope it is something that we will leave for all peoples, for men, women, and children to live with and enjoy in the future. We remember those who have fallen, and, indeed, it was also a very moving experience for all of us today to see their children come together, and to see many who stood on different sides of an issue at a point in the past, within our military forces, meet in friendship, hope, and optimism regarding the future.

Once again, Prime Minister, I welcome you very heartily and all your colleagues, and I welcome you Mr. Secretary. Thank you so much. [applause]

[Rabin] Your Majesty, Your Highness, the Secretary of State: First and foremost, I would like to thank you in the name of my colleague to the cabinet, the foreign minister of Israel, and my other colleagues, for the most gracious and warm hospitality here in al-'Aqabah. I believe that on 25 July, when we met in Washington and we signed together the Washington Declaration, it was a landmark in the history of the Middle East, in the history of the relations between Jordan and Israel, and a landmark in the history of the road to peace. It was not just a declaration. We see that within two weeks, we have started to implement it. Yesterday, telephone connections were made between Jordan and Israel, between Israel and Jordan. And your majesty had a telephone call from the president of Israel, President Weizman. Today, your highness, myself, the secretary of state, our colleagues opened a real opening of a border that was closed. And symbolically, this crossing, international crossing, between Jordan and Israel, between al-'Aqbah and Elat, is in a place that served as a mine field for many decades. The mines were cleared. The road is free. The future is in pursuing what we have started by now.

I do not believe that this could be achieved without your vision and courage, your majesty. You led your people through difficult periods, and you make the right decision, now a very courageous decision, that no doubt changes the face of the Middle East today. I believe that what we have started will be continued and we'll find many issues on which we can cooperate. You mentioned, your majesty, we and a small group, discussed the details

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of the negotiations that tomorrow will start in two places: in the tent in the 'Arava for the last time and in the Dead Sea company hotel on our side. And I am sure that by intensive negotiations, we'll find ways to overcome obstacles, differences, as we have succeeded to do till today. I believe that what has started in Washington by the Washington Declaration no doubt is a new chapter not only in the relations between Jordan and Israel. I believe that it serves as an example [of] what can be achieved in the relations with Israel and the other Arab countries, between the other Arab countries and Israel, because after all, our mutual purpose, goal, is comprehensive peace, to solve once and forever the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its entirety.

I would like also to thank the secretary of state for the United States' help, the personal involvement of President Clinton and you, Mr. Secretary, in bringing about and assisting that this event, historic event, will take place. We rely on the continuation of the United States' assistance and support in the development of the relations between Jordan and Israel, politically, economically, and otherwise. We believe that the United States has shown great leadership in helping, assisting the parties to the conflict to overcome it. And as you, your majesty, said in your famous speech on the lawns of the White House, we achieved the end of war, we are in the process of building the structure of peace. Thank you very much your majesty in the name of all of us [words indistinct]. [applause].

[Christopher] Your Majesty, Your Highness, Prime Minister Rabin, Prime Minister al-Majali, Ladies and Gentlemen: Today is a reflection of a great deal of work that has been done by a number of people over many years. Many of them are here in our presence. Two are certainly here at the table. Your majesty, when I reflect on the fact, I suppose it's accurate to say that it's almost 43 years that you have been pursuing the goal that comes about today. It's a very good thing for the world to see this happening today with all of the intractable problems that face the world. It's a tonic to know that some seemingly intractable problems do have their solutions. It was entirely appropriate today that we focused primarily on the bilateral relationships between Jordan and Israel. For those two countries now have an opportunity to demonstrate what the real benefits of peace are, to show the world what a warm peace is, to show the kind of things that can emerge from the relationship that's being developed.

But in addition to that we discussed some other matters that look to the future. We discussed a meeting of the trilateral group, that is the United States, Israel, and Jordan, which will take place some time in September, and will focus on regional development projects. We also discussed the Casablanca conference on regional development which will take place on 21 October. That's a great opportunity to unlock some of the resources of this region for the benefit of the people of the region. So, it's an extraordinary day, and I want on behalf of the president and the American people to congratulate both Israel and Jordan and their leaders, but also to say that the United States will remain with you, will continue our economic and political support for this endeavor inspired, as we are, by these recent events. Thank you, your majesty.

[Al-Fanik] My name is Fahd al-Fanik from the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y. My question to Mr. Rabin is whether the displaced Palestinians living in Jordan since '67 will be allowed to return to the West Bank if they choose to do so. On the other hand, if Jordan would have access to the West Bank market or the West Bank market will continue to be treated as a captured market for Israel alone? Thank you.

[Rabin] Before I answer, I was told, your majesty, that in two days you will celebrate the 42d anniversary of your coming to the throne of the Kingdom of Jordan. I wish you all the best. [applause]

Now to the question: It was agreed that there will be a committee, once it will be established, between Jordan, the Palestinians, Israel, and Egypt. We propose that this committee will be on the level of foreign ministers that will deal with many issues, including the displaced persons. I believe the invitation was issued or will be issued for the convening of such a committee, and the committee will discuss it. I don't believe that at this stage, it will be advisable to me to say what will be the results. The issue was brought up from many corners and this is what has been agreed on. As far as Jordanian markets, I believe that for a long time there was no major problem on the part of Israel, and as you know till this moment we are there in the West Bank, in Judaea and Samaria, with the exeption of a limited area of Jericho. I believe the problem can discussed in the economic subcommittee.

[Rosen] Your Majesty, I am representing Israeli Channel 2 Television. My name is Emmanuel Rosen. In Washington two weeks ago, I asked you how far do you think we are from a full peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, and you answered not very long. Two weeks after Washington, so much happened. Can you elaborate?

[Husayn] I can only add that I am happy to know that what I said is true in terms of the rapid progress that has been achieved, because there is a will to achieve progress and to address all the remaining problems in a satisfactory way, and I again cannot forecast a date or a time but serious negotiation is going on all the issue that need to be addressed. And it is of particular importance that they be addressed as rapidly as we can achieve that for people to feel the results and the benefits of all our efforts towards the attainment of peace, a peace treaty would come as a crowning achievement of all these efforts and I hope before too long.

[Greenhouse] Steven Greenhouse of the NEW YORK TIMES: Your Majesty, the Israeli Government has invited you to visit Jerusalem. Have you decided on what date you will visit?

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[Husayn] I have not decided on a date so far. I have received the invitations. I hope that before too long, I will be able to respond to the kind invitations to visit, and there are two dimensions to the answer I will give. One is obviously the invitation I received even yesterday from the president of Israel, and I hope it will be arranged sometime soon, and we will definitely give you enough warning of that when it does happen. The other is in relation to visits to the holy sites in Jerusalem and, hopefully, in Hebron. Again that is something that has not yet materialized in terms of specific dates. What I have said in the past and I repeat again that I believe it is my right as a Hashemite, Muslim, Jordanian Arab to visit these holy places, and I hope I will be able to do so before too long. Thank you very much.

[Associated Press correspondent Barry Sweiss] King Husayn, question please. Is there a message here for Syria that contrast between the two tracks is so sharp? We were in Syria yesterday, we are here today—totally different pictures. Do you have a message for President al-Asad you would share with us?

[Husayn] I hope that what I know for a fact will translate itself into reality in terms of the commitment of all concerned to move ahead towards a comprehensive peace, and I know that President al-Asad feels the need to move towards that objective, and has made that commitment. So, it is our hope that we will see progress on all tracks leading to the comprehensive peace we see.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister, this is Randah Habib from Agence France Press and Radio Monte Carlo. After what we have seen today, and the formation of a joint committee on land and border, when are you going to redeploy the Israeli forces on the Jordanian border, please?

[Rabin] Allow me to remind you that after Gaza-Jericho First, what was agreed on in the Cairo agreement is early empowerment and elections. In preparation to the elections, there will be redeployment, not withdrawal, redeployment. We are today even in continuation of negotiations of the early empowerment, the Palestinians have not yet started, (?might meet today), bringing to us there ideas about elections. We are not the party that prevents beginning of negotiations about elections. But, allow me to remind you, redeployment does not stand on itself, and it is redeployment, not withdrawal.

[Habib] I am talking about Jordanian border, Mr. Prime Minister. I was talking....

[Husayn, interrupting] There is nothing that [laughing]....

[Rabin, interrupting] There is no need to redeployment, there are no deployment.

[Habib] But so that we know where the borders are?

[Rabin] This is a different story. We have agreed that there is, tomorrow, the beginning of serious negotiations, first in the tent, later on, with such complicated items in the Dead Sea Company Hotel. Negotiations will start and we will do the utmost to reach agreement about this issue and other issues as soon as agreement will be reached. Allow me to remind you that the border between British mandated Palestine and the Kingdom of Jordan has never been marked. It has to be done in a very careful, accurate way based on maps, all kind of agreements of the past, and the work will be done. We made a major decision that we are going to tackle and to solve these issue.

[Barne'a] Your Majesty, I am Aharon Barne'a from Channel 2 News in Jerusalem. Will you be willing, sir, to consider facilitating a rapprochement at least, or maybe even a meeting between the Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhaq Rabin—everybody is talking about Syria—I would like to as about the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq?

[Husayn] Well, I am not aware of....

[Rabin, interrupting] To make it clear, I have never asked for such a meeting. [laughing]

[Sukenik] Your Majesty, a question for the Israeli Television. My name is Gadi Sukenik. When will you open the border for all Israelis, means those who have only Israeli passports, to visit Jordan?

[Husayn] I hope before long sir. We are moving toward that end.

[Sukenik] Which means more or less?

[Husayn, laughing] Which means more or less before long sir.

[Sukenik] Maybe this year?

[Husayn] I cannot say, but I hope that our efforts will be rewarded with success in resolving all the problems, and we are moving. We have already covered a lot of ground towards that end.

[Al-Sharif] I have a question for Mr. Christopher. My name is Nabil al-Sharif. I am chief editor of AL-DUSTUR Arabic daily in Jordan. My question, Mr. Secretary is on the situation in the Arab world as a whole. You are quite aware, sir, that many countries in this part of the world are bogged down in situations of political conflict and instability in general. Jordan, on the other hand, offers a different example, an example of respect of human rights, democracy, pluralism. Don't you think Mr. Secretary, that this example should be emulated and encouraged in the region as a whole?

[Christopher] I believe there are great opportunities for the region as a whole, growing out of the dramatic events of last September, and then the dramatic events of two weeks ago. The landscape is really being transformed in the Middle East. Major changes are under way, pioneered by the two gentlemen on my right, and I think the

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effect of that will ripple throughout the region. The United States, will have as its purpose to try to extend the precedent reflected by the events of two weeks ago, and also to extend the precedent with respect to the search for democracy and human rights which is reflected in the conduct of both the Israeli Government and the Jordanian Government.

[Abu-Libdah] Mr. Secretary, Prime Minister, by the end of the day, these political gestures that we see now are considered Jordanian calculated symbols of goodwill. People in Jordan do wait to see concrete Israeli and American steps in the same direction and path of warm peace. I am speaking about bilateral and multi regional economic projects in the [Jordan] Valley, in the potash, in the phosphates, in the other projects that we have here the lot, and people are waiting to see concrete steps in this direction. I am Mustafa Abu-Libdah, from Al-ASWAQ newspaper business daily. I am the chief editor. Thank you?

[Rabin] We are more than ready, and we are in a process of negotiations of having a joint plan for various economic regional, bilateral economic developments. At the same time, I believe that there is a possibility to do many things of bilateral areas in terms of trade, tourism, etc. But, we have to discuss, to agree about them before they will be able to be carried out.

[Christopher] I might add that I reported to his majesty and the others today that the legislation in the United States for debt relief for Jordan is proceeding through our Congress at an unusually rapid pace. President Clinton has written to the Paris Club a couple of days ago recommending debt relief for Jordan. In addition to that, we have other legislation which is pending in Congress with respect to the (?excess) defense articles which is a reflection of the new environment here in the Middle East. So, the United States is doing its part, and will continue to do its part, as I said, under the trilateral meetings that will take place in September as well as our involvement in a leadership role and the Casablanca conference in late October.

[Husayn] I would like to thank you very, very much indeed my friends. Please go ahead.

[Name indistinct] from IDF Radio. [word indistinct] Israel. I want to ask you Your Majesty, are you going to act against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] which has headquarters and spokesmen in Jordan?

[Husayn] As far as the answer to this question is concerned, we are a democracy, as you know, but beyond that any activities that are illegal will be treated as such, and as far as another subject—that of terrorism—we are against it in every form, and everywhere it takes place, and we will continue to be so.

[Al-Badri] Hani al-Badri of Jordan Television. Mr. Prime Minister: His majesty assured a few times that he will help by all means in releasing the Palestinian prisoners. Can we get a positive response from you on that?

[Rabin] Well, as you know, we have released over 4,000 Palestinian prisoners. We offered to members of what we call the rejectionist, that their headquarters are in Syria—Habash, Hawatimah, Jibril, and others—if they sign a paper in which they say we support the peace, we are committed to refrain from terror and violence—several hundred refused to sign it. If they refuse to sign, we cannot reduce whatever they are sentenced for. As far as those who belong to the terror groups that declared that they will continue to carry our terror activity against Israelis and against Palestinians—in the last month more Palestinians were killed by Palestinians than Israelis by Palestinians—and therefore, we clearly distinguish between those who decided to support peace, committed to refrain from continuing violence and terror, and those who do not want to join the effort of peace.

[Murad] Nirmin Murad of the JORDAN TIMES. My question is to Mr. Christopher, please. Can you tell us how much progress have you made in your message-transition between Israel and Syria and whether we can see any progress that can be announced any time soon?

[Christopher] During this trip I had a good meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, not long after I arrived on Saturday [6 August] night, and then, yesterday, I met for five hours with President al-Asad in Damascus. I would say that we are laying the groundwork for progress on that very important track. Both of my meetings were constructive. We have a great distance to go there, but the parties are very serious about the matter. And as I have said I think these meetings in the region on this trip began to lay the groundwork for progress for peace.

[Husayn] I think that that might be enough. I would like to thank you very, very much indeed my friends. Now if you will convey to your listeners and viewers our determination to do all we can for the cause of the comprehensive peace and our delight with the events what have taken place so far, and our determination to continue with all vigor to achieve our goal in the nearest possible future. I think it would be very, very nice if the prime minister and the foreign secretary would join me in welcoming our friends one by one. Thank you.

Further on Talks

JN0808164694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A session of talks was held in al-'Aqabah this afternoon among His Majesty King Husayn, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

During the session, the conferees confirmed the date of the next tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli meeting at the end of this month, and stressed the United States' role in the projects that would bolster the peace process in the region.

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The talks also dealt with the means of developing the region and the joint projects that can be executed in it. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Spokesman on New Round

JN0908061994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] A new round of Jordanian-Israeli talks will begin today at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. The Jordanian delegation to the talks is led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral talks, while the Israeli side will be led by Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Dr. Marwan al- Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for Jordan's negotiating delegation, said: From now on, we expect to engage in detailed negotiations on border demarcation and water sharing, since the general principles of these two issues have been endorsed during the bilateral talks. He added: The framework within which we are working is clear. We are not talking about withdrawals from part of the territory, but about exercising our sovereign right over all of the occupied Jordanian territory. Talking about part of the territory has been rejected.

Al-Mu'ashshir said the Boundary and Land Commission will meet today in the Wadi al-'Arabah region to start drawing joint maps. The Security, Environment, and Energy Commission will also meet today at the site of the Israeli Potash Company. In addition, the Economic Commission will meet to discuss banking and trade. He noted that these topics have already been discussed within the framework of the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli Committee. These commissions will continue their meetings until the date of the meeting of the trilateral committee in September.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan has finished drawing maps related to the issue of boundaries, using the demarcation maps that were drawn up in 1922 and given to the League of Nations in 1928 for safekeeping. He pointed out that the talks have entered a serious and detailed stage. We expect positive results in the short run, he said.

Intelligence Chief Comments

TA0908071694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Report on an interview with Major General Tahsin Shurdum, head of Jordanian Army Intelligence, by political correspondent Udi Segal in al-'Aqabah on 8 August—recorded; italicized passages are in English]

[Text] [Segal] Major General Tahsin Shurdum, head of Jordanian Army Intelligence, is one of the prominent figures in the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel. He is well acquainted with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals involved in the peace talks and they with him. Yesterday, during a break in the events in al-'Aqabah, I asked Maj. Gen. Shurdum to answer a few questions. I first asked him how he, as head of Jordanian Intelligence, assesses Syria's intentions:

[Shurdum] *We hope—I am not a politician, as you know—but we hope all the tracks of peace, all the countries are going to move forward in peace. There is no race in peace. Each country has its own requests, and we hope all countries arrive at their requests.*

[Segal translates the above and continues] The next question I directed to the head of Jordanian Intelligence was whether Jordan will cooperate with Israel in its war against terrorism:

[Shurdum] *Each country has its own specialties about keeping its own security. We believe security is very important, and we have the policy in our country that we are completely against terrorism, and our nation would like to live in peace as much as our neighbors. We know that peace and security is important for Israel. It's as much exactly important for Jordan and any other country in the region.*

[Segal] *What about the war against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?*

[Shurdum] *I told you I don't want to comment on this. We are completely following the peace track, and we like to continue on peace track, and we hope all people will follow on the peace negotiations and there will be a good future for everybody in this region.*

[Segal translates the above and continues] I asked Maj. Gen. Shurdum whether he thinks military cooperation between the Jordanian Army and the IDF against terror squads can be implemented at this stage:

[Shurdum] *After peace, each country will be in charge of its own security. There will probably be cooperation between all the countries in the region for the stability and prosperity of the countries in the whole region.*

New Round of Talks Opens

JN0908084594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] A new round of Jordanian-Israeli talks opened today on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. The Jordanian delegation is led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, while the Israeli delegation is led by Elyaqim Rubinstein.

Dr. al-Tarawinah delivered a speech at the opening session, in which he stressed that developments over the past two weeks have been unique and interesting. He said: We are greatly indebted to the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Husayn.

He added: The developments over the past two weeks are still alive in our memory. These developments will enable us to deal with reality.

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Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, also made a speech, in which he praised the atmosphere that prevailed yesterday during the inauguration of a border crossing between Jordan and Israel, as well as the beginning of a new era in bilateral relations.

King Husayn Reportedly To Visit Jerusalem 14 Aug

JN0708131994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Occupied Palestine—Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and King Husayn of Jordan this morning inaugurated direct telephone links between Israel and Jordan by a telephone call carried live by the Israeli Army radio. During the brief telephone conversation, Weizman invited King Husayn to visit Jerusalem.

An informed Israeli source had said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman in occupied Jerusalem last night, and informed him that King Husayn of Jordan would telephone him today, for the first time, from Amman. Rabin added that this event would inaugurate direct telephone links between Israel and Jordan.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that King Husayn can visit Israel whenever he likes. It is up to him. He will be a respected guest, and most welcome, Peres added.

In statements to Israel Radio today, Peres expressed the belief that King Husayn has enjoyed the support of average Israelis since the recent Washington developments. He enjoys the confidence of many people, he added. Peres denied that he knows about a plan for King Husayn to visit Israel next week.

For its part, today's edition of the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV quoted a senior Jordanian source as saying that King Husayn of Jordan will arrive in Jerusalem on Sunday [14 August]. The paper has not provided any further details on this issue.

The Israeli newspaper DAVAR said that King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet tomorrow after the inauguration of the Jordanian-Israeli border crossing point. They will then go on a brief sea cruise, the paper said.

The newspaper HA'ARETZ said that Israeli and Jordanian security men worked together yesterday to make arrangements for the meeting due to be held between Rabin and King Husayn in the Gulf of Aqaba tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume in Cairo

Talks Begin

NC0808120194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations began here this afternoon under Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian National Authority's minister of planning and international cooperation, and Dani Rothschild, coordinator of affairs in the occupied territories.

Hasan 'Usfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation, told MENA that the current round will continue discussion of the issue of the early transfer of civilian authorities to the Palestinian side on the West Bank, primarily in health affairs, education, social affairs, taxes, and tourism. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Assesses First Round

NC0808164294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] minister of planning and international cooperation and chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks, has announced that President Husni Mubarak regards the Palestinian negotiating track as the major link in the entire peace process, regardless of developments on the other tracks. Sha'th said this is so because the success of the Palestinian track indicates real progress in the peace process.

After the conclusion of the first round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo today, Sha'th told reporters that the meeting held in Alexandria two days ago between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat was successful. He noted that President Mubarak met President 'Arafat prior to his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and asked for his views on all outstanding issues. This was followed by a three-way meeting between Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Christopher. It was a very positive meeting, Sha'th said.

He asserted that President Mubarak defended Palestinian demands because he believes in the importance of the Palestinian track.

Sha'th added that the tripartite meeting focused on problems and obstacles the Palestinians face in implementing the agreement with Israel, including the safe corridor and border crossings issues and Israel's practice of preventing Palestinian farmers from going to their lands in the Jordan Valley's Jiftlik area. He pointed out that these issues demand rapid resolution, because procrastination spawns resentment among the Palestinians and weakens the PNA's ability to press ahead with the peace process.

Sha'th explained that the Alexandria meeting also dealt with the need to hasten ongoing negotiations on transferring power in the entire West Bank to the PNA.

He added that the United States raised the issue of aid to the Palestinians and explained its delay, noting that statements made by some U.S. officials about this aid were erroneous. Sha'th said the Americans explained

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that every dollar given to the Palestinians was spent with U.S. knowledge and supervision.

Sha'th said the Americans listened to the Palestinian demands and faithfully relayed all they heard from Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat to the Israelis. He added that the Israelis have responded to some of the Palestinian inquiries and that other issues will be discussed by the Palestinian-Israeli Higher Liaison Committee in al-'Arish next Sunday [14 August]. This meeting will be attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, he said.

Sha'th reported that President Mubarak and Secretary Christopher made efforts to prepare for the expected meeting on Wednesday [10 August] of President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Sha'th said that he will meet with Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq on Friday to discuss problems connected with the issues of Palestinian prisoners and control of the border crossings linking Gaza and Jericho with Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank, and Israel.

He said that all these planned meetings were insisted upon by the Palestinians, who believe the agreement is not being properly implemented. He said it is necessary to resolve the issues of Palestinian prisoners, the crossings, and the safe corridor between Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th remarked: We do not want these issues to be marginalized. They must be discussed at a higher level.

Dr. Sha'th said that Jerusalem is a political issue and at the same time a symbol for all the world's Muslims and Christians.

He pointed out that the Israelis want to negotiate over Jerusalem in another two years, although the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles calls for prompt discussion of this issue within two years.

He explained that Yitzhaq Rabin, who refuses to hold negotiations on Jerusalem for another two years, cannot refuse to discuss the practical problems Palestinians face when they travel to Jerusalem.

He added that Israel has reduced some restrictions on entry into the city, such as only allowing men over 45 and women to enter it. Nevertheless, remarked Sha'th, we want Jerusalem to be open to us all.

He noted that Gen. Shahaq and Dani Rothschild [coordinator of the Israeli Government's activities in the occupied territories] have assured him that Jerusalem's final status will be determined by negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis alone.

Dr. Sha'th said that Israel has created obstacles to the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Foreign Committee [name of committee as received] on the pretext that Uzi Dayan, chairman of the Israeli delegation to that committee, is currently preoccupied with the negotiations with Jordan. Sha'th explained that the Palestinians are negotiating with Israel, not with Uzi Dayan.

Sha'th affirmed that the current round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations deals with the early transfer of power in the West Bank to the Palestinians, particularly jurisdiction over such matters as tourism and taxes. He said that discussions of these matters are expected to end this week unless the negotiators are obliged to postpone them in view of the planned meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin.

Meanwhile Dani Rothschild, chairman of the Israeli delegation, said that today's round of talks is being conducted in a fine atmosphere despite some difficulties connected with taxes and funding the transfer of power to the Palestinians.

Rothschild announced: We all expect to find solutions to these issues soon.

He voiced the hope that discussions on the transfer of tax and tourism powers to the Palestinians will be completed during this round of talks.

Sha'th on Talks, Election

NC0908101094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Israeli-Palestinian talks chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and Dani Rothschild, coordinator of affairs in the occupied territories, resumed this morning.

Dr. Sha'th told reporters that the Palestinians are calling for speedy elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but the Israeli side is delaying them. He affirmed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement yesterday that the Palestinians are the cause of an election delay is untrue.

Sha'th said: The current two-day round of talks will end today because we will meet Rabin tomorrow to discuss the election issue, which we previously raised in Paris.

He added: During our meeting with President Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher we stressed our insistence on holding elections as soon as possible. President 'Arafat told President Mubarak and Christopher that he needed a mandate from his people and that he could do nothing without this mandate, which will come through free elections.

Sha'th said the discussion of an early transfer of power to the Palestinians in five civilian sectors in the West Bank is not over yet, noting that these sectors cover health, education, social affairs, tourism, and taxes.

He added that the reason for not continuing this round, which opened yesterday, is that he and Rothschild must attend the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting tomorrow.

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Sources Cite Proposals for Israel-Syria Settlement

MM0808112294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Christopher Meet in Alexandria; Proposals for a Settlement Include Removal of Settlements and Revocation of Golan Annexation"]

[Excerpt] Alexandria, Shannon (Ireland), AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—[passage omitted]

Arab sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Christopher is carrying proposals for a settlement between Israel and Syria. It is summed up in the following:

- Revocation of the Israeli Knesset's decision to annex the Golan Heights to Israel;
- Official recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338;
- Removal of Israeli settlements in the Golan;
- Phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan over a 5-7-year period;
- Provision of security measures on both sides of the border after the Israeli withdrawal, including a demilitarized zone and early-warning stations;
- Talks on other points as regards normalizing relations, including opening embassies and establishing trade relations;
- Israeli recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The sources pointed out that Syria is demanding that the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan be completed within only three years, and that Israel hasten to revoke the Knesset's decision to annex the Golan.

U.S. pressures on Syria succeeded in [getting Syria to] allow most Syrian Jews to emigrate.

Washington is currently promising Damascus to remove Syria from the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism and to include it among the states benefiting from annual U.S. aid. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 Aug 94

NC0708180094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Chief Editor Attacks Decree on Islamic Veil in Schools
2. Al-Azhar Body Urges Minister To Rescind Ban on Veil
3. U.S. Zionist Plans To Attack Iran Claimed
4. Libya, Syria, PLO Mediate Between Egypt, Sudan
5. Egyptian-Iranian Meetings To Improve Relations
6. Writer Criticizes UN Conference on Population
7. Article Defends Islamic Veil, Urges Adherence to Islam
8. Seminar on Future of Palestinians' Human Rights
9. Muslim Brotherhood Members, Propagator Released From Custody
10. Al-Ghazali Criticizes West's Approach to Religious Values

CHIEF EDITOR ATTACKS DECREE ON ISLAMIC VEIL IN SCHOOLS

In a 2,000-word article on pages 1 and 2, AL-SHA'B's Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn writes forcefully against the education minister's decree requiring parents to give written approval for female students to wear Islamic veils in schools. He says that the spread of the veil is basically a popular "phenomenon" and an "ideological and social" practice that has easily penetrated the society. He adds: "But the enemies of the Islamic solution are the ones who are turning it into a big issue and the focus of a front against fundamentalism, extremism, and terrorism. They are waging war on the people over a new issue. It is they, not the Islamists, who are now turning the veil into a major issue." He says that he can understand a "malicious" orientalist who said he hates the east and those who wear the fez, but cannot understand or forgive a minister in "Islamic Egypt" who hates the veil and other "national symbols."

AL-AZHAR BODY URGES MINISTER TO RESCIND BAN ON VEIL

A 1,400-word report on pages 1 and 7 carries the "text" of a religious ruling issued by al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee in response to the education minister's decree requiring parents' consent for female students to wear veils in schools.

The report says: "The Fatwa Committee of al-Azhar has asked the education minister to retract his decision banning the veil in schools. The committee described the minister's decision and the subsequent decisions issued by the authorities as violating Islamic shari'ah."

U.S.-ZIONIST PLANS TO ATTACK IRAN CLAIMED

Mahmud Bakri contributes a 660-word report on pages 1 and 7 on tension in south Lebanon, Israeli threats to retaliate for the Argentina and London bombings, and contacts between President Mubarak, Israel's Rabin, and President Clinton.

The report says: "Information obtained by AL-SHA'B confirms that U.S. and Zionist circles are planning to make aggressive attacks on Iran. U.S. Vice President Al Gore himself is supervising a joint U.S.-Israeli move to strike at targets inside Iran and planning to topple the regime by supporting the opposition while forming an

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Arab bloc to help the United States and Israel to implement the plan." The report adds that U.S. President Clinton asked Vice President Al Gore to coordinate with Israel on a move against Iran on the "pretext" that Iran was embroiled in the recent acts of violence.

LIBYA, SYRIA, PLO MEDIATE BETWEEN EGYPT, SUDAN

A 250-word report on pages 1 and 7 by Rabi' Shahin indicates that a mediation effort by Libya, Syria, and "Palestine" aims to arrange a meeting between the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers to resume talks on Hala'ib.

EGYPTIAN-IRANIAN MEETINGS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS

On page 4 AL-SHA'B carries a 1,700-word report by Mahmud Bakri on Egyptian-Iranian contacts and meetings to improve bilateral ties. The report indicates that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa submitted a report to President Mubarak saying that Iranians recently showed readiness to provide Egypt with information on terrorism.

WRITER CRITICIZES UN CONFERENCE ON POPULATION

Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad writes a 900-word article on page 5 criticizing government spending on the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], due to be held in Cairo in September. He particularly criticizes the document to be endorsed by the conference, which has met opposition from the Vatican, the Islamic World League, and the Islamic Conference Organization because it runs counter to Christianity and Islam on issues such as facilitating abortion and "sexual perversity."

The author notes that such things encourage illegitimate sexual intercourse and destroy the family structure, and this "contradicts the teachings of the heavenly religions." He claims that a number of countries that will take part in or encourage this conference are asking the Third World countries to adopt measures that they themselves do not endorse, on the pretext that they are rich and developed. As for the poor nations, they have to reduce their populations commensurate with their level of development.

This, he says, indicates that a uniform policy on family planing cannot be adopted. He adds that each country has its own circumstances and that there are countries that suffer from low birth rates and therefore encourage policies to raise them.

ARTICLE DEFENDS ISLAMIC VEIL, URGES ADHERENCE TO ISLAM

On page 5 AL-SHA'B runs a 2,000-word article written by Dr. Ahmad al-Malat. As an introduction, he draws a comparison between the West's "materialistic" life style and Islam's spiritual values and traditions, noting Western man's "sexual liberty" and excessive drinking habits.

The author then discusses the veil as a "religious duty" mentioned in the Koran and the prophet's traditions. He says: "The conflict between right and wrong has become the hallmark of this decade. The culmination of the tragedy was this unjust diabolical decree issued by the education minister. The minister wants parents to obey that decree, thus defying Almighty God's Koranic injunction."

He adds that the minister forgets that he lives among 60 million "pious Muslims, who obey God and his messenger" and have performed prayers since the dawn of Islam. Addressing the education minister, he goes on: "It is impossible for their faith to be shaken by that suspicious advice."

He also addresses President Mubarak, saying: "As president of the republic, you represent those 60 million people and speak for them. You represent a nation whose constitution is the Koran, which is the heart of the Islamic nation." He adds: "As president of the republic, you are the one most capable of preserving Islam's principles among the Muslims and stopping the excesses of some people who pretend to forget that they are dealing with a nation whose constitution is the Koran. Your are also able to maintain the traits which distinguish Muslims from others. The most important and serious of these traits is the veil, which was decreed by the Koran."

Concluding his article, the author turns to the ulema, telling them: "Announce your religious decisions openly and clearly to be read by every person so that no one will have any excuse."

SEMINAR ON FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS' HUMAN RIGHTS

In a 900-word report on page 7, 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im says that the "Cairo Center for Human Rights" has held a seminar on the future of Palestinian human rights under the self-rule government. A participant noted that if the Palestinians resort to resistance, the self-rule authorities will have a difficult choice. The authorities will either have to persecute and punish the resistance men for acts not punishable under international law, in order to ensure the viability of the peace process, or refrain from doing so, which in turn will bring the peace process to a halt. Another participant pointed to the possibility that the self-rule authorities will be implicated in human rights violations, whereupon Israel will launch a propaganda campaign saying that the Arabs are not qualified to rule themselves.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS, PROPAGATOR RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

Qutb al-'Arabi publishes a 100-word report on page 7 saying that the Higher State Security Prosecution

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decided "last Saturday" [30 July] to release 15 Muslim Brotherhood members in Alexandria. They were accused of being involved in the "al-Wardiyan" incidents in May. The report adds that Muslim propagator Wajdi Ghunaym was also released after three months in jail.

AL-GHAZALI CRITICIZES WEST'S APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS VALUES

On page 12, AL-SHA'B runs a 350-word article by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, who criticizes the West's approach to religious values and teachings. He says that "divine teachings" have been buried in the modern culture and are regarded as intellectually backward. He specifically refers to a British House of Commons ruling on homosexuals and U.S. President Clinton's "attempt" to enlist gay people in the Army.

Palestinian Affairs

Jordan's Prince Hasan Reportedly En Route to Gaza

TA0908110094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan will arrive in about 90 minutes on his first visit to the Gaza Strip. He will be accompanied by the PLO's ambassador in Morocco. This has been learned by our political correspondent Udi Segal, who is on the phone:

Crown Prince Hasan will arrive in the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border crossing—that is, through Egyptian territory. He will be accompanied by the PLO's ambassador in Morocco. This is the first visit by such a high-ranking Jordanian official to the Gaza autonomous area. Prince Hasan will apparently confer with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

We learned about this visit only 10 minutes ago. Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem learned about it only a short time ago. Faysal al-Husayni was in Amman, and it may very well be that the visit was arranged during his visit. In any event, this should be regarded as an important development. [passage omitted]

Report Denied

TA0908112194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1010 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] We have just heard about new developments concerning the scheduled visit of Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan to the Gaza Strip. Our political correspondent Udi Segal is on the line:

As we were trying to obtain more information about this visit during the last few minutes, we found out that such a visit will not take place, despite the fact that a report to that effect was sent by defense sources to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. What will apparently take place is a visit by advisers of Morocco's King Hassan, who will be accompanied by the PLO ambassador to their country. The Jordanian crown prince will apparently not be coming to the Gaza Strip. Such a report was received by the Foreign Ministry but denied a few minutes later, when the matter was checked through more direct diplomatic channels.

Al-Husayni on Meeting With Jordanians on Jerusalem

JN0808201194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Palestinian National Authority member Faysal al-Husayni in Ramallah by unidentified correspondent in the studio—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[Correspondent] Good evening.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Correspondent] Abu-al-'Abd [al-Husayni], you have returned from Amman and you are now attending a meeting in Ramallah under the slogan "Jerusalem is the Eternal Capital of the State of Palestine?"

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[Correspondent] To begin with, would you like to tell us about the results of your meeting in the Jordanian capital.

[Al-Husayni] This meeting had two objectives. The first objective was to know the background and details of the third clause [in the Washington Declaration] on the city of Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. The second objective was that we should take a quick action to harmonize our steps with those of Jordan in order not to allow these steps to lose control, because this will only benefit Israel.

[Correspondent] Which Jordanian officials did you meet with in Amman?

[Al-Husayni] We met with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

[Correspondent] Did you meet with King Husayn?

[Al-Husayni] No, as we understood, the king was leaving for al-'Aqabah. He was busy with preparations for these meetings [the Israeli-Jordanian meetings].

[Correspondent] Was the dialogue with the Jordanian side on the issue of Jerusalem easy?

[Al-Husayni] I can say that the talks were frank. There was a warning against specific dangers. We also posed questions on the Israeli interpretation of some points in this agreement. There was discussion on the issue of coordination, and who was responsible for weakening this coordination which would lead to the disruption of the Palestinian-Jordanian steps. At any rate, the meeting

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was very frank. We hope that the proposals which were made during this meeting will be able to bridge the gaps in the Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

[Correspondent] What specifically was reached following the clamor created by the Washington Declaration?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that we had earlier made a decision to form some committees and institutions. However, these committees did not begin their work, such as the Jerusalem committee, the economic committee, and another committee on the displaced. We hope that these committee will begin their work as soon as possible, and that coordination will be based on the implementation of the steps we talked about in the past. This, in itself, will improve coordination.

[Correspondent] Does the Jordanian side still insist on the issue of sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, they do not speak about Jordanian sovereignty over Jerusalem. They speak about Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem, and religious jurisdiction over the holy sites. We believe that such an issue should be discussed with us, not with the Israelis. We and the Jordanians can reach agreements and understanding even though the viewpoints are not identical. We do not like to see that this issue has become an Israeli-Jordanian issue. It is not an Israeli-Jordanian issue, but a Jordanian- Palestinian issue.

[Correspondent] At the Ramallah meeting, which was attended by all the national and Islamic forces, what did you discuss? Has this meeting issued any recommendations on Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] The main theme in all speeches today was that Jerusalem is above all political maneuvers and differences. The most important of these recommendations was the appeal for holding meetings to issue the Jerusalem charter.

Al-Husayni on Husayn Visit to Jerusalem

TA0908112994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni says that if King Husayn decides to visit Jerusalem, he must coordinate this with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Husayni returned yesterday from Jordan, where he received clarifications from a government minister about the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. Al-Husayni said that the Jordanian minister informed him of Jordan's desire to maintain its present role regarding the holy sites in Jerusalem.

'Arafat Receives Message From Christopher

JN0908084794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The acting U.S. general consular handed the message to President 'Arafat. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's information adviser, said that the message deals with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the implantation of the Declaration of Principles. The message, he added, also includes answers to Palestinian questions presented during the Alexandria meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and the U.S. secretary of state in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Sha'th on Jerusalem, Self-Rule, Christopher Tour

MM0808151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with "Planning Minister" Dr. Nabil Sha'th by correspondent Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced a few days ago that the final settlement will include a solution to the Jerusalem issue. Do you believe this announcement has settled the problem caused by the Jordanian-Israeli accord vis-a-vis the holy city, specifically the concept of Jordanian jurisdiction?

[Sha'th] It must be pointed out first that the clause concerning Jerusalem in the Washington declaration between Jordan and Israel means absolutely nothing. And it will entitle Jordan to nothing. It was as though Israel wanted to say that Jordan has a relationship with the Islamic sites. But this has caused problems, giving the impression that Jerusalem is a religious issue, hence someone else should be found to oversee Christian sites. This is in addition to the inter-Arab problems this matter could cause. We always say that Jerusalem is for all Muslims. It is primarily an Arab issue.

[Abu-Husayn] Can it be said that the dispute over Jerusalem should be settled?

[Sha'th] As far as we are concerned, the issue is not a religious one, despite the importance of this aspect. It is to do with the right to sovereignty and territory. For our part, we are trying to intercept Israel's attempts to create problems of this kind. The Jerusalem issue will remain an open file until it has been settled. We discuss it continuously in all general Palestinian-Israeli meetings. I will also discuss this issue with Peres in the Liaison Committee, which will convene in the Eretz area in Gaza.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the Jordanian-Palestinian committee tasked with tackling the Jerusalem dispute between the two parties?

[Sha'th] A Palestinian delegation is currently visiting Jordan to agree on the formation of that committee and to discuss coordination and relations in general. Major parts of the meetings will be devoted to the Jerusalem

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issue. We also welcome a role for the Arab League in the committee's work in order to stress the Arabism of Jerusalem.

[Abu-Husayn] Is what Jordan announced true, namely that there is a Palestinian-Jordanian agreement under which it has the right to oversee the holy sites?

[Sha'th] That is untrue. When links between the West Bank and Jordan were severed in 1988, King Husayn announced that he would continue to pay the salaries of the religious quarters responsible for services in these sites. We did not sign any agreement.

[Abu-Husayn] One month has elapsed since the Palestinians' assumed the National Authority in Gaza and Jericho. What has been achieved so far?

[Sha'th] The Israeli withdrawal from the agreed areas has been completed. So has the Palestinian police's entry. Large numbers of them have entered [Gaza and Jericho], and we have begun to set up ministries of the National Authority. There is now a great feeling among citizens that freedom has begun and the occupation disappeared without any fear or concern. But at the same time there are problems, since Israel is still in control of the crossings, which still have not been handed over to us. And we still have not been allowed to use the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho. We hope these problems will be ironed out in the next phase. We are also facing problems regarding the promises made by the donor states to develop the liberated land. However, I believe that some progress will take place in this connection after the donor states' meeting next month, and Gaza and Jericho will receive U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

We will also receive Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The aim of all this is to reactivate the peace process and move toward advanced steps vis-a-vis the situation in the West Bank and the liberated areas. It will also be agreed to convene the quadripartite committee to discuss the refugee question.

[Abu-Husayn] Will Christopher offer anything new during his tour?

[Sha'th] I believe that Christopher's present tour is designed to bring about new progress on the Syrian track—a step which we welcome, so that the peace process will become comprehensive. We support Syria with regard to all the rights to which it is adhering.

Sha'th on 'Arafat, Rabin Meeting

JN0908085994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tomorrow near the Erez checkpoint to discuss suspended issues between the two sides. Dr. Sha'th added that President Yasir 'Arafat briefed Secretary of State Warren Christopher, during their recent meeting in Alexandria, on the Palestinian demands represented by the need to transfer funds to the Palestinian National Authority, in addition to the security issues, whose answers are still being delayed by Israel. Such security issues are represented by the release of Palestinian detainees, the Jericho area, and the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th said that he will meet with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal on Friday [12 August], adding that he will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Sunday.

Sha'th Replaces 'Abbas as Steering Committee Head

TA0808110394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], one of the most senior PLO political activists, retired from all involvement in the peace negotiations some time ago due to differences of opinion with Yasir 'Arafat. Several days ago, Nabil Sha'th officially informed the Israeli negotiating team that he is replacing Abu-Mazin as head of the Palestinian Steering Committee.

A meeting of the joint steering committee is expected to take place in Egypt next week. The Israeli team will be headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Israeli sources who are involved in the negotiations believe that the meeting is aimed at acknowledging Nabil Sha'th's new position.

For many years, Abu-Mazin was considered a sort of PLO foreign minister. For years, he was one of those who encouraged unofficial contacts between Israelis and Palestinians. Abu-Mazin was very involved in the negotiations with Israel and forged warm working relations with the Israeli teams. He signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington last September on behalf of the Palestinians alongside Foreign Minister Peres.

Abu-Mazin retired from official activity over differences of opinion with 'Arafat, who, according to Palestinian political circles, prefers to surround himself with yes-men. For this reason, Abu-Mazin has preferred to stay out of the Palestinian autonomous area so far. A Palestinian source involved in the peace process told DAVAR yesterday that Abu-Mazin will come to the autonomous area but at a later stage and not with the intention of assuming any public position.

'Arafat Appoints Adviser for Jericho Affairs

JN0708063994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 23

[Text] Gaza, the self-rule area, QUDS PRESS—Palestinian sources have said Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian self-rule authority, has appointed Najib al-Ahmad an adviser for general affairs in Jericho. Al-Ahmad, who held the post of director of 'Arafat's office in Jordan, is a member of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council.

Palestinian sources close to the Palestinian authority said creation of this post follows Palestinian protests in

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Jericho against a decision last Monday [1 August] by 'Arafat to dismiss Lieutenant Colonel Mundhir Irshayd, the Jericho area officer.

Islamists Protest Gaza City Council Appointments

JN0708111394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Movement in Gaza yesterday staged a sit-in in the city municipality building courtyard to protest the new city council appointments and to call for free, democratic elections. The protesters raised pictures of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Addressing the protesters, Dr. Ibrahim al-Yazuri, a Hamas founder, rejected appointments to the city council. Isma'il Haniyah, a Hamas leader, read a statement issued by the Hamas Movement. it called for toppling the city council and for honest elections on the basis of national unanimity and free word.

Commenting on this sit-in, 'Awn al-Shawwa, temporary Gaza city council mayor, said that the city council's doors are still open for opposition and that the opposition seats in the council are still vacant so that they can extend the necessary services to the city away from any political differences.

Hamas, PLO Opponents Protest

TA0708104294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpt] Some 600 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demonstrators protested in front of the Gaza Municipality yesterday against PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's local policies, while PLO opposition members called for killing Gaza's 'Arafat-appointed mayor.

'Arafat was not in Gaza yesterday, having left the area for the first time since taking up residence a month ago as chairman of the Palestinian Authority. 'Arafat's office said he was to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria to discuss the future of the Israeli-PLO accords in light of the Israeli-Jordanian peace moves.

The demonstrators protested 'Arafat's decision to appoint only members of his own Fatah faction to the Gaza council. Before 'Arafat arrived in Gaza at the end of June, mayoral appointee Mansur al-Shawwa had compiled a list of council members including all factions. Al-Shawwa refused to change the list when 'Arafat demanded that he do so, and resigned. 'Arafat then appointed Mansur al-Shawwa's cousin, 'Awn al-Shawwa, in his place who accepted 'Arafat's new Fatah-only list.

About 250 youths from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine traveled in a convoy of six buses and trucks through Gaza last night shouting "'Awn al-Shawwa you donkey, you should be shot."

In contrast, the Hamas demonstrators held a quiet sit-in in the crowded square. They held placards saying "Yes to democracy, no to appointments." Palestinian Police did not intervene.

Hamas also protested the closure of the pro-Jordanian AL-NAHAR newspaper and AKHBAR AL-BALAD magazine by the Palestinian Authority nine days ago. [passage omitted]

Party Criticizes Leaders' 'Domineering' Style

NC0708171894 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 7 (AFP)—A party with two "ministers" in the Palestinian authority Sunday [7 August] accused other self-rule leaders of adopting a "domineering" government style.

The Palestinian Democratic Union, led by culture and information "minister" Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, held a meeting in Jericho Friday to discuss "conditions for further participation" in the Palestinian authority headed by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, it said in a statement.

Participants "unanimously criticised the attitude of hegemony, the domineering and individualistic mentality manifested in decision-making and the exercise of power," the party said.

They also criticised "negative and dangerous elements" of leadership in the areas of politics, the economy, security and peace negotiations with Israel, and condemned attacks on civil liberties.

The party emerged after a split in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) last year.

Party member 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi is youth and sports "minister" in the authority.

Most of the 15 Palestinian "ministers" appointed after self-rule was launched in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on May 4 are members of 'Arafat's Fatah faction, or are closely aligned with it.

Hamas Statement Condemns Authority's Actions

MM0908095494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Condemns Practices of Palestinian National Authority"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has condemned the practices of the Palestinian autonomy authority in connection with the pursuit and detention of strugglers, restriction of freedom of opinion and the media, the way of dealing with Palestinian "agents," and the way municipal councils have been formed. It called for "free and honest election" of these councils.

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In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, Hamas condemned "actions by the Palestinian Authority similar to the actions of the occupation invaders, in that it is arresting the mujahidin and threatening to pursue them and bring them to trial as a service to the Zionists. At the same time, the authority remains silent about and provides protection for the agents who are corrupting our people.... Furthermore, after the Erez incident, the Palestinian Authority gave Israel guarantees of protection for its soldiers and settlers.... erected barriers and checkpoints putting a new burden on our people's shoulders.... and restricted freedom of opinion by impeding al-Quds radio and confiscating the newspaper AL-NAHAR."

Hamas condemned the way "in which the municipal councils were formed in Gaza, Nabulus, and Hebron on a factional and dictatorial basis without consulting the Palestinian people and their influential forces. Hamas emphasizes that free and honest elections are the sound way of producing municipal councils respected by our people." The movement renewed its rejection of the Oslo agreements and the Washington Declaration.

VOP: Israel Responsible for Election Delay

JN0908094094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said he holds the PLO responsible for postponing the Palestinian elections scheduled to be held in the occupied Palestinian territory. At the news conference held yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Rabin said the PLO has so far not presented any plan for holding the elections.

Meanwhile, the PLO holds Israel responsible for delaying the elections because it refuses to discuss the deployment of Israeli forces in populated areas before the holding of elections, not during the preparations for these elections, as the Israeli Government wants.

Damascus Radio Reports DFLP Intifadah Statement

JN0908052394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has hailed the valiant intifadah strugglers in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip as they continue their daring struggle against the occupation and settlement throughout the occupied homeland.

In a statement distributed in Damascus today on the beginning of the 81st month of the intifadah, the DFLP said that separate agreements will serve no one but Israel. It called on the Palestinian opposition forces to unite and organize their efforts inside and outside the homeland and to work to escalate popular and armed intifadah actions to defeat and expel the occupiers, ensure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, build their independent state, and call the refugees back to their homeland.

Battalions Formed To Supervise Lebanon Camps

NC0808152794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, 8 Aug (MENA)—According to informed Palestinian sources, President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has issued instructions for the formation of four Fatah battalions in the Sidon area of south Lebanon to supervise the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah Palestinian refugee camps.

The sources added that the tasks of these battalions will include regaining the offices and administrative apparatus that the Fatah Movement had in these camps before they were seized by anti-Fatah Palestinian opposition factions led by Lieutenant Colonel Munir al-Miqdah.

Knowledgeable Lebanese circles have voiced fears that this action could escalate the war of physical liquidations among Palestinian officials in south Lebanon's Palestinian camps.

Meanwhile, al-Miqdah has declared a state of alert in the camps to repulse possible Israeli attacks.

Security Officer Greeted by Hundreds in Jericho

TA0808121294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Hakam Bal'awi, the officer in charge of security in the Palestinian Autonomy, crossed from Jordan into Jericho at noon today. He was greeted by hundreds of residents of the Tulkarm area and a delegation of Israeli Arabs headed by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn and Ahmad al-Tibi. Bal'awi told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that he welcomes the agreement between Israel and Jordan, an agreement which is part of the peace process. At the same time, he emphasized that East Jerusalem and the holy sites belong to the Palestinians.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn also welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, saying he hoped it will not come at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Qaddumi Speaks at Algiers VOP Closing Ceremony

LD0708201494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] This is the Voice of Palestine, the voice of the Palestinian revolution. Brothers, Mr. Lamine Bechichi, director general of the National Enterprise of Algerian Radio, this morning held a special ceremony on the occasion of the recording of the last broadcast of the voice of the Palestinian revolution from Algeria, which has lasted for more than a quarter of a century. The ceremony was attended on the Palestinian

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side by brother Abu-Lutf [Farruq Qaddumi], minister of foreign affairs of Palestine and head of the political department of the PLO, and Mr. Zuhdi al-Tarazi, adviser to brother president Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted] The ceremony was attended on the Algerian side by Mohamed Salah Dembri, the foreign minister, and the ministers of culture, communications, and liberation war veterans. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Bechichi] We hope that our brother Abu-Lutf, Faruq Qaddumi, the Palestinian foreign minister, will kindly address us:

[Qaddumi] Your Excellency Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri, the Algerian foreign minister; brothers; I am happy in these historic moments in which the Voice of Palestine radio is transferred, or rather returning from the land of revolutionary Algeria to the Palestinian homeland. It pleases me in these moments to offer to the fraternal Algerian people, its president, its government, the Algerian radio authorities, our deep thanks and gratitude for having this Palestinian voice for so many years. This Palestinian radio, that started broadcasting from the good and free land of Algeria contributed to the flaring up of the fire of the revolution and the blessed Palestinian intifada inside our occupied land. Yes, this voice, this roaring voice will continue to be a free podium calling for independence and freedom in the homeland. This voice will remain directing the masses toward the objective of building the independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

While this is the first step, we have in front of us long steps to make. While we have undertaken this long march for freedom and independence for the recovery of the dear homeland, while this free voice rose from Algeria to express the objectives of our Palestinian people to recover its usurped homeland, we have have in front of us still many difficulties and hardships. But as a Palestinian people we cannot lose hope. Quite the contrary. We will continue on this long course so as to achieve independence and freedom for our people, and in front of us is this new challenge, which is not simply for building, but to impose the sovereignty of our people on their land so as to snatch their rights and recover Jerusalem.

Our enemy is evil, and there cannot be stability in the Middle East region unless the independent Palestinian revolution is established. Whatever the difficulties and whatever the sacrifices, everyone in this world, and those who applauded the peace process and the agreements must know that it is impossible for us to surrender a grain of sand of the Palestinian territory. This is our long march, and this is the aim of our people, and thus we cannot despair and we, in this long march, inside and abroad, must carry our weapons, and we cannot throw these arms and the intifadah cannot stop unless our people recover their independence and freedom.

It is impossible for us to be betrayed by words and the West's voices. The Palestinian people know that there is a state which built a palace in history and which must come to an end. This is the Palestinian march and this is our right. They usurped our land. The refugees must return to their land. This is the march on which we started the revolution many years ago.

O brothers, O brave Algerian brothers, you who have achieved the independence of Algeria and stood by the side of the Palestinian revolution with strength, faith, and patience; be certain that the Palestinian people will not throw away their weapons unless they recover their independence and freedom. We are not asking for authority; we want to affirm the sovereignty of our people on their land and we want to build. We will not be quiet unless the occupation and its material and moral effects are eliminated. These are the facts, and we will work inside and abroad, and we will harden our stances until we achieve our aims.

We express thanks to every Algerian child, to every Algerian woman, and to this great nation, who gave us this voice with kindness. Thanks to you O brothers, and may God's peace and blessings be upon you. [Applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Germany Opens Mission in Jericho To Oversee Aid

TA0808162794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Greece's foreign minister says his country will open a diplomatic mission in the Palestinian autonomy areas within the coming days. Germany today became the first country to open a mission in the areas, inaugurating an office in Jericho. The head of the mission said the move was within the framework of the Israel-PLO accord to help the Palestinians financially. German mission head, Martin Kabler, spoke with reporter Gid'on Remez.

[Begin recording] [Kabler] Germany is one of the biggest donor countries, and we very much endeavor that the aid is transferred here, to the areas, in an efficient way. We are the first ones who are opening this office here, in Jericho, because I am deeply convinced and my government is convinced that the economic development of the areas, the social development, the development of an administrative structure is the core of a peaceful development here.

[Remez] Indeed, there have been complaints on the one hand from the Palestinian Authority that the money, not only from Germany but from all the donor countries, is not coming through at a sufficient rate, and on the other hand complaints from the donors themselves that really the Palestinians aren't quite set up to receive money efficiently. Is that really the case?

[Kabler] Well, this I cannot judge right now because it's my first day in office—we opened three hours ago—but I'm fully aware of this problem that the projects have to be implemented. We were with the mayor of Jericho this

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morning to introduce ourselves, and I will very quickly get in contact now with the members of the Palestinian Authority to discuss the future scope of cooperation with them. It's not only the German aid. We have already a couple of credits from non-governmental organizations [NGO], church organizations, and other NGO's in Germany who want to do something for the economic development of the area. Of course, they come to the office and say: Who is our partner to talk to?

The third [as heard] point is that the private investors are looking for investment here. [end recording]

Gulf Companies Contacted To Set Up Oil Refinery

JN0608171294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] A Palestinian source today reported that Palestinian investors and businessmen have been holding contacts with Gulf companies to finance an oil refinery in the area under control of the National Authority.

The source added that the refinery, which will depend on oil supplies from Arab and Islamic countries, will operate at a capacity of 15,000 barrels per day.

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Algeria

Kebir Accuses France of 'Clear Interference'

BR0808124894 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Aug 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Rabah Kebir, chairman of the executive body of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front abroad, by Mouna Naim on 4 August; place not given: "FIS Leader Condemns France's 'Policy of Clear Interference'"]

[Text] In an interview with LE MONDE on Thursday, 4 August, Rabah Kebir denies wishing to "justify the crime" and speaks out "against the murder of foreigners, whoever they are." But the fatal attack on five French nationals in Algiers on Wednesday gave him the opportunity to reaffirm that "he who sows the wind reaps the tempest."

"France's position, which denies the Algerian people the choice, which denies democracy, and which gives unlimited support to the military dictatorship, is an act of open provocation," the chairman of the executive body of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) abroad, who has been living in exile in Germany for two years, stated. What explanation is there, he asked, for the presence of French gendarmes in Algiers, other than "a policy of clear interference" in Algerian affairs? However, the people are "free, independent, and sovereign in their homeland," he said. France is asked to take note of this.

In the present situation, Mr. Kebir states, "it is impossible to name the perpetrators of the murders of foreigners," or to say whether it is an Islamic group or a state "service." On the other hand, he guaranteed one thing: "When an Islamic government is in place in Algeria, and this is inevitable sooner or later," he stressed, "the door will be open to cooperation with foreign governments and the presence of their nationals will be protected in accordance with Islamic law."

In his opinion, after establishing contacts with the FIS, many governments have realized that it does not present a terrifying danger. And although he thinks it is premature to say that these governments are mediating between the party of God and the authorities, he nonetheless thinks that "any wise person, be he American, French, or other, will have to consider this matter one day."

Mr. Kebir vehemently criticized France's position. The money which Paris is giving the Algerian Government "at the French taxpayer's expense," he said, "is not devoted to Algeria's development but goes directly into the pockets of the corrupt and the state's rotten apparatus." And he urged French officials to "carry out a courageous review" of their policy toward Algeria and to make themselves the advocates "of serious negotiations among all sides."

During the recent meeting of G-7 in Naples last June, the French stood out, he said with indignation. Whereas the Americans and Italians "frankly" advocated dialogue, [French] Foreign Minister Alain Juppe pointed out that, in his opinion, the Algerian Government had no real interlocutor.

Is the FIS prepared to have dialogue with the government? "On principle we are in favor of seeking a serious negotiated solution," Mr. Kebir replied. In his view "this necessarily depends on the release of FIS leaders" Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj, who were sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment in July 1992. He accused General Liamine Zeroual, head of state, of having gone back on the pledge he gave several weeks before taking office to place Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj under house arrest as a prelude to their release.

Mr. Kebir confirmed that there are disagreements between the FIS and the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is regarded as the radical wing of the Islamic movement. He cited two such disagreements: the attitude toward foreigners and the GIA's rejection of the electoral process which the party of God supports.

Retaliation Threatened

MM0908085694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Arlette Khuri in Paris and Kamil al-Tawil in London: "'Salvation Army' Threatens France Regarding Failure To Release Islamic Detainees"]

[Excerpts] The French authorities have intensified their measures against the Islamic figures placed under house arrest the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

In a report from Algiers yesterday, AFP said it received a statement from the Islamic Salvation Army (loyal to the Islamic [Salvation] Front) requesting the "immediate release" of the Islamists placed under house arrest in France, and threatening to retaliate if they are not released. [passage omitted]

Cheik Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, told AL-HAYAH in London yesterday that French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua "spoke as if he was Algeria's interior minister." He added that he is still holding consultations with lawyers about suing Pasqua for slander, and that there is a determination to pursue the case.

Kebir said that Pasqua's statements about Algeria constituted "a clear interference in its internal affairs, which is unacceptable." He noted that many French figures did not agree with Pasqua's hardline views against the Islamists.

He said that he still had not received any communication from the German authorities about restriction of his

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activities on which Paris said it held contacts with Bonn with a view to curbing the activites of FIS leaders abroad. [passage omitted]

GIA Threatens Students, Teachers

MM0808141694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Bisharah Shirbil in London, Arlette Khuri in Paris, and Hasan Sandarusi in Washington: "Armed Islamic Group Threatens To Prevent Studies in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] The repercussions of the killing of five French nationals in Algeria last Wednesday are continuing. The French interior ministry yesterday placed 16 people, including two religious leaders, under house arrest on suspicion of membership of the Islamic Salvation Front. [passage omitted]

While various circles continued to show interest in the statement issued by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], received by AL-HAYAH, claining responsibility for the killing of the five French nationals, the same group issued another statement warning students and teachers in Algeria against going to school and against continuing their studies, and theatening any violators with "deterrent punishment under the Shari'ah" [Islamic law].

The statement, received by AL-HAYAH in London and signed by Abou Abd Ahmed, the amir [leader] of the GIA, said:

"Statement to students, teachers, and heads of secondary schools and universities:

"The jihad, of which the GIA is the only legitimate framework, means keeping a watchful eye on everyone who comes under the Shari'ah requirements included in the books of jurisprudence, and is not restricted to any sect to the exclusion of others.

"Keeping the educational institutions open in the present circumstances means discouraging the jihad and the fighting and marginalizing and ignoring the blood of the martyrs and the mujahidin, shed for upholding the banner of God and for defending Islam.

"Continuing studies means helping tyranny to achieve stability and failing to support and back the jihad and the mujahidin.

"It is well known that under the Shari'ah, it is not permitted to work in the institutions of renegade rulers and their supporters and, especially, where adulterated youth education programs which violate Islamic laws are concerned.

"Therefore, the GIA absolutely prohibits the following:

"1. Studying: No student is allowed to go to high schools or universities. Anyone who violates this order will be subject to rebuke and deterrent punishment under the Shari'ah.

"2. Teaching: This concerns teachers and heads of secondary schools and universities. Any teacher who goes to his post and any headmaster who opens the gates of his secondary school or university will be punished under the Shari'ah....

"Any opened secondary school or university will be the target of fire and explosives until everyone comes under the banner of the GIA." [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Condemns FIS, Fundamentalism

BR0808150694 Paris LE POINT in French 6 Aug 94 p 11

[Interview with President of the Movement for the Republic Said Sadi by Olivier Weber; place and date not given: "Questions to Said Sadi"]

[Text] [Weber] What is the strategy of the Islamists?

[Sadi] It is a strategy to seize power through violence by movements which do not have a precise program in mind. The tragedy of the five French nationals who were murdered is unfortunately an all too common occurrence. The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] intends seizing power by whatever means necessary. I was in the same prison as its leaders, including Ali Belhadj. He told me: "When we are in power, there will be no more elections because God will be ruling." Fundamentalism is fascism.

[Weber] The Islamists are apparently very divided...

[Sadi] The divisions are real, but not essential. Fundamentalism in Algeria does not come from society but from the institutions. It has no cult or cultural depth to it, as in Egypt and Iran. That makes it fragile. We are heading instead toward an Afghan-type process.

[Weber] Are they therefore condemned to keep pushing ahead?

[Sadi] The North African Islam is a syncretic Islam, it is coherent and convivial. Fundamentalism is a reaction to the single party and the school system. It is condemned to constantly try and outdo itself, pushing ahead despite everything. The FLN [National Liberation Front] sowed the seeds of fundamentalism in this country, for example with the family code introduced in 1984.

[Weber] Has the strategy of isolating the government from foreign influence worked?

[Sadi] Yes, the whole country has been surrounded by a kind of "sanitary belt." The Algerian authorities must fall and will fall. The only problem is ensuring that they do not take the whole country down with them.

[Weber] Should France continue to support the Algerian Government?

[Sadi] There is a de facto complicity, at least from the Left, with the fundamentalists. When you help the Algerian regime, you are helping a power which wants to work with the FIS. The FIS, however, does not want to

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work with the government. The Islamic fundamentalists want to swarm throughout the whole Maghreb region. France must be careful. French suburbs are now witnessing the same problems that occurred in our country: the forming of hard-core associations, prayer rooms, the recruitment of militants, etc. There is a whole sea of money irrigating these fundamentalist movements.

[Weber] What is the political basis for your "third path?"

[Sadi] The alternative, rather than a third path, resides with the tens of thousands of citizens, democrats, and civil servants who know that there is another way—the revival of democracy. They do want to serve as an alibi for the current government. If Algiers falls, there will be immediate repercussions in France. There are no moderate Islamists. A moderate Islamist is someone who does not have the means of acting ruthlessly to seize power immediately.

Presidency To Invite Dialogue Resumption

MM0908085094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: State To Address Invitations for the Resumption of Dialogue; The Question Is Who Will Represent the Islamic Front"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—The Algerian presidency is expected this week to address invitations to the parties which boycotted the the National Accord Conference asking them to resume dialogue with it.

Sources close to the presidency have revealed to AL-HAYAH that "secret contacts between the presidency and the influential parties began last June and included the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], some Islamic figures of the (dissolved) Islamic [Salvation] Front [FIS], the Islamic Society Movement [Hamas], the Islamic Ennahda Movement, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (the party of former President Ahmed Ben Bella), and the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], all of whom are said to be unanimous that the dialogue should be resumed."

According to Algerian sources, the recent meetings held by President Liamine Zeroual encouraged him to declare at the cabinet meeting last week that there was a need to resume the dialogue.

They said that that declaration was made after it became clear that dialogue was now a popular and partisan demand more than an official demand for ending the crisis after the failure of the "security solution." They believe that the advocates of the "security solution" have most probably abandoned their hardline views on the way to tackle the current crisis.

The most pressing question in Algeria is "what is new in this new opportunity for dialogue?" Observers note that there is now a familiar equation in Algeria which is, in brief, that whenever the Algerians agree on a "formula" for ending the crisis the security situation deteriorates and an escalation occurs on both sides.

The presidency's declaration about the resumption of dialogue coincided with the killing of five French nationals and the appointment of Layla Aslaoui, reputed to be bitterly opposed to dialogue with the Islamists, as the government's official spokeswoman.

Observers believe that "the conflicting reports about the expected national dialogue are leading to a hard line by the opposition because the dialogue is going to be between the real authority and the effective opposition."

The FLN maintains that the meeting will be between "the authorities and the parties held partially responsible by the public," whereas the FFS insists on its position as "a party opposed" to the current regime and opposed to any dialogue that does not fulfill its demands.

Hamas, which is led by Cheik Mahfoudh Nahnah, is the only party which is in fact engaged in the dialogue and which has representatives in the Transitional Council, a matter which could call into question the exclusion from the dialogue of 28 parties which are in the Transitional Council.

Hamas is considered to be the party most acclimatized to the political reality. It was the first party to call for a dialogue with the armed Islamic groups. Its latest proposal is that it should act as a "mediator between the authorities and the FIS," but, according to certain information, the FIS rejects "mediation."

The real puzzle in the dialogue is who will represent the FIS?

Reliable sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the FIS members against whom there is a conviction would not participate in the dialogue and that those who have not been convicted would play a part in it.

That means that the "only qualified person" for conducting the dialogue is Abdelkader Hachani, who is now in prison in the capital, in addition to Ali Djedi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham. Islamic sources believe that the fact that the FIS is putting its "Islamic house" in order is seen as a preparation for dialogue with the authorities.

Zeroual Addresses Invitation

LD0808172694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] A statement released by the State Presidency today says that the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, addressed a written invitation to officials of eight political parties to attend a meeting on Sunday, 21 August, to relaunch and continue the national dialogue. The statement points out that after the talks, the head of state will meet officials of the political parties and associations participating in the Transitional National Council.

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8 Invited Parties Named

LD0908090294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] These parties are: the National Liberation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, the Islamic Society Movement, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Party of Algerian Renewal, the ETTAHADI [acronym of Arabic words meaning Progress, Modernity, and Democracy] Movement, and finally the Islamic Revival [Ennahda] Movement.

After these talks, the head of state will meet with party officials and representatives of the associations taking part in the Transitional National Council to inform public opinion of the progress of this dialogue and the results achieved. [Passage omitted]

Zeroual Offers Return to Electoral Process

NC0808194394 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, 8 Aug (AFP)—Algerian President Liamine Zeroual issued a statement Monday pledging a swift return to democracy and multi-party elections if the legal opposition takes part in "national dialogue" talks later this month.

His statement came one day after Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi called on the opposition to help him prepare for fresh elections while presenting his government's programme to the country's interim parliament, the national transitional council (CNT).

Since then, seven parties ranging from moderate Islamic groups to the secular opposition and the former single party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), have been invited to the August 21 meeting.

"The final goal of the dialogue is to (...) return to the electoral process in a democratic framework in the shortest possible time, allowing the free expression of choice by the people," the president said.

Everyone should "search their conscience to ask if hesitation and party loyalties are still acceptable, while Algeria faces terrorism and violence targeting not just state institutions but the entire nation and democracy itself," he continued.

"That is why all those who wish to play a role in Algeria's future and who respect constitutional legality, above all a rejection of violence, should play their part in saving our country."

Thousands of Algerians and more than 50 foreigners have died in mounting political conflict since the military cancelled the second round of voting in January 1992 elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The now-banned FIS is not among those invited to join the dialogue.

The FLN, the Assembly for Culture and Democracy, and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria and other groups have also refused to join the interim legislature where 22 seats have been set aside for them.

The interim government's scheduled three-year mandate began with the February 1 appointment of General Zeroual as head of state.

On Sunday [7 August] Sifi called on unnamed "party leaders and their activists" to contribute to organising new polls on an unspecified date and asked them to put "the interests of the country and the people before party politics."

"You call for dialogue: come and talk," he told them. "You call for elections: help us to organise them. You want power: seek it from the people in a democratic manner through the ballot box."

The CNT, whose 178 members represent some 30 parties, unions and employer organisations, is expected to give its verdict on the programme on Thursday [11 August].

Sifi said his government would strive to create "the political, security, economic and social conditions necessary for a swift return to the electoral process."

But he also stressed that his priority was to halt "the bloodshed that nothing can justify on either religious, economic or political grounds."

His programme provides for changes in laws governing political parties and the electoral code ahead of fresh elections, theoretically scheduled to take place at the end of the three-year transition.

The premier also stressed the need to introduce free market and privatisation reforms into the Algerian economy to bring the country out of recession.

Council Begins Deliberations on Sifi Program

LD0808221994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Members of the National Transitional Council this morning started discussing the government's program for the transitional period. Mourad Madaoui reports on the first day of deliberations:

[Madaoui] A member of the National Transitional Council said that the transitional period, which is aimed at guaranteeing the continuity of the state, strengthening the economy, and restoring overall economic and financial balances progressively, in addition to stimulating economic growth and deepening structural reforms, will be very hard to achieve. He justified his point of view by saying that the program for the transitional period is an unclear political discourse lacking a scientific approach. A representative of one of the political parties said that the program has no tangible or material aspects as it lacks statistics and economic figures.

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Some participants considered the portion dealing with industrial restructuring to be unclear. Some asked if restructuring means privatization, and if so, they wonder if Algeria is on the course of privatizing its national economy.

This criticism to Sifi's program went further. Some of the council members asked the head of government if they could see the letter of intent signed with the IMF. They justified their demand by pointing out that 90 percent of the government's actions after the transitional period will be based on this document.

Still in the economic sector, a member stressed the need to strengthen the Algerian currency by issuing a currency that could counter the phenomenon of large-scale speculation by big business, and he also called for the imposition of taxes on people who have funds exceeding 1 million dinars.

Regarding the stimulation of the national economy, there were demands to speed up the stimulation process, while meanwhile taking precautions to avoid negative effects on workers, such as dismissals or redundancies.

Regarding the education sector, one member noted that the government program did not focus on the claims of the masses for more educational establishments by constructing more schools and universities. The head of government replied to this criticism by saying that though some of the points raised were direct, he preferred to leave a final reply until after the end of the debates. He pointed out that the government has started applying some measures, particularly in the agricultural sector, such as the decision to defer the repayment of loans to farmers for 12 years.

It should be noted that during this first day of the debate on Sifi's government program that some dispositions made during the meeting deviated from the course of discussion to issues and details not included in the government program. Meetings of the council will resume tomorrow.

Egypt

Trade With Iraq, Unfreezing of Funds Addressed

NC0908073194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Azim]

[Text] Informed economic sources have stated that Egypt is now contacting Arab and international parties to ease the effects of the economic embargo against Iraq.

High-level Egyptian economic moves in recent days have seen trade deals worth approximately $200 million concluded with Iraq. The deals include the export of Egyptian foodstuffs to Iraq. The same sources emphasized that Egypt wants to raise the issue of the embargo against Iraq during meetings of Arab institutions, particularly at the Arab League. Egypt also seeks to persuade the Western states to release part of the Iraqi funds frozen in Western banks to finance the other trade deals it intends to conclude with the Iraqi side before winter. An Egyptian trade delegation visited Iraq recently and met Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi officials to discover Iraq's economic needs.

Israel's Islamic 'Terrorism' Stance Rebuked

NC0608044294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 8

[Article by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Rabin and Islamic Terrorism"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has no right to talk about "Islamic terrorism," which he wants the world to join him in resisting, when Israel cannot be exonerated of exercising "Jewish terrorism" in more provocative and defiant forms, leaving dozens of victims daily in southern Lebanon. So it was not strange to see British Prime Minister John Major hasten to put things in proper perspective when he declared his rejection of linking Islam to terrorism and extremism. He demonstrated sober reservation in not pursuing the Israeli accusations which specifically blamed Hizballah and Iran. He stressed that there is no definite proof pinpointing the perpetrators responsible for the explosions in London. The Argentine foreign minister said the same in a similar statement.

Needless to say, these terrorist operations that occurred in London and Buenos Aires must be totally condemned. Iranian fingers are not far from similar incidents in the Middle East. However, it is difficult to believe the claims linking these explosions to Iran's opposition to the peace process, because no matter what the magnitude of this opposition, it will not reach the point of carrying out such major operations that need precise planning, preparation, and risk, all for an issue that is not a priority for Iran. It is only natural that Britain should act swiftly to preclude the possibility of Israel carrying out retaliatory operations on London streets, which would turn Britain into a battlefield between the Israeli Mosad and extremist groups. There are several examples kept in British police files of terrorist operations and physical liquidation perpetrated with impunity on British soil by the Israeli Mosad.

The Islamic countries are fortunate that John Major has domestic and international reasons prompting him to separate Islam from terrorism. However, where are the Islamic countries that Rabin or others so easily brand with terrorism while no one opens his mouth to respond or determine Israel's responsibility for creating and encouraging terrorism? The police recently detained a group of Israeli youths, followers of Kahane, training in terrorist operations.

Anyway, what counts now after the green light that Christopher gave to Israel is that Israel is now empowered to launch a major retaliatory operation in the

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Middle East—in Lebanon or elsewhere. This is the new role that Israel has taken on to fight Islamic terrorism with the silent and feeble agreement of the Arab and Islamic countries themselves.

Yemeni Official Praises Mubarak's Role

NC0708135694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id, charge d'affaires at the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo, has affirmed that during the recent Yemeni crisis Egypt played a prominent and leading role, the objective of which was to reconcile and bring closer the two parties to the crisis in Yemen in an attempt to restore stability and preserve the interests of the Yemeni people.

In an interview with MENA, the Yemeni charge d'affaires praised the responsible stances President Husni Mubarak has taken ever since the crisis started and his swift action and direct contacts with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni leadership to control the situation and stop the bloodshed between the sons of the same country. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id affirmed that the phenomenon of political Islam in Yemen does not carry within its folds any terrorist or aggressive currents or any abnormal practices.

In this regard, he noted that the Yemeni reform party is a religious party participating in the ruling coalition. It is a legal party that adheres to the Constitution, recognizes democracy and the other existing parties, and rejects terrorism, violence, and monopoly of power.

He clarified that the international forces have increasing strategic and petroleum interests in this part of the world. There are also requirements for political, economic, and military security that are in turn becoming important.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id noted that in coming days Yemen will witness political and economic changes the objective of which will be to reorganize Yemen's situation and review the political roles of the parties in view of the results of the war, in addition to rebuilding the areas that have been harmed by the fighting.

Government Accused of Hiding Economic Facts

NC0908075094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Economic Tricks"]

[Text] Why does the government deliberately hide the economic facts from the people? Could this action be in line with the policy of openness and frankness it claims to be following? Is it true, for instance, that the Egyptian pound's exchange rate is determined, as the government claims, by free market forces without any intervention from the monetary authorities? Is it also true that the inflation rate has dropped from 21 to 7 percent this year? And is it true that the current 10 percent interest rate on the Egyptian pound rewards the deposit holders for their savings?

These statements made by the government are untrue. As is known, the exchange rate is determined by a government committee supervised by the Central Bank. The Central Bank's intervention with the banks to cut down the demand for the dollar and other free currencies to boost the Egyptian pound and thus encourage the public to use it in dealings despite its eroding value are too many to mention. Experts know that if calculated according to accurate economic criteria, the inflation rate could be no less than 20 percent per year. By announcing a drop in inflation, the government wants to give the false impression that prices are stabilizing. This would enable it to announce another drop in the interest rate on the pound, thus relieving it of the burden of a high interest rate on deposits in pounds after the government failed to use them properly. It is also known that a drop in the pound interest rate would not compensate deposit holders for their savings, simply because the inflation rate is much higher than the interest rate. With an average inflation rate of over 20 percent per year, a person saving in Egyptian pounds would lose, not gain, if he were to get 9 or 10 percent interest on his money. This means that depositors in Egypt are actually seeing negative interest of no less than 10 percent on their deposits. This is the truth and we challenge anybody to deny it!!

Debate Continues on Islamic Attire in Schools

NC0708064594

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 2 August publishes two long reviews on pages 3 and 7, of 4,500 and 2,500 words respectively, dealing with the ongoing debate over Islamic dress for female students [hijab]. The debate was prompted by Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din's "unified dress" instruction to schools, which requires a parent's permission before the student can be veiled. The education minister is cited as saying that his decision regulating school dress was prompted by the need to deal with "an educational tragedy played out over the past few years when some extremists infiltrated our schools and started to assassinate innocence under the guise of Islam." He explains that during those years some school administrators punished unveiled girls.

The first report, by Sayyid 'Ali, examines the views of various educators, psychologists, and ulema on the minister's decision banning hijab except with the parent's explicit permission. The respondents are roughly evenly divided between those who support and those who oppose the minister's decision, but there is general support for modest garb for female students.

According to one respondent, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Mat'ani, hijab consists of "concealment of the body except for the face, palms, and feet" and includes a head covering. Explaining that this definition is accepted by

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the majority of ulema, he urges the education minister to reconsider his decision and notes that "If God and his messenger decide a matter, then no one has the option of refusing it."

Several respondents object to the imposition of the head scarf on preteen-agers, saying this inhibits the spirit of children, but they favor Islamic garb once a girl is a teenager so that she "may become accustomed to modesty."

The report cites a comment by Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, who is supportive of the education minister's decision. He says that permission by the female student's parent to wear hijab "is designed to keep the parent informed about what his daughter is wearing."

The mufti continues: "The minister's decision does not mean that a veiled student will be prevented from entering school."

The second report, by Yusra Muwafi and Sa'id Halwa with the headline "Disengagement Over Islamic Dress in Schools," is about a meeting held between the education minister and some al-Azhar ulema and Awqaf Ministry officials that produced this agreement on the hijab issue: "The Education Ministry does not oppose hijab as such. Female students will be allowed to wear it even if their parents do not come to school and request it. A female student wearing hijab will not be prevented from entering school. If her parent refuses to allow her to wear a head scarf, she will still be allowed to study."

Concerning the face veil, however, the education minister said it is "forbidden and morally inadmissible because the relationship between teacher and student is based on the meeting of eyes and the face features." He added that this is a generally acknowledged educational and psychological rule.

Libya

Algerians Arrive for Security Committee Meetings

Interior Minister Leads Group

LD0508212594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Brother Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, Algeria's interior, local authorities and administrative reform minister, arrived in Tripoli today at the head of a delegation. He is paying an official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah with the aim of consolidating and bolstering cooperation and coordination between the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Committee Reviews Joint Agenda

LD0608211694 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The meetings of the Arab Libyan-Algerian Security Committee began today in Tripoli under the cochairmanship of the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for justice and public security, and brother Abderrahman Mohamed Meziane Cherif, the minister of interior and local communities in Algeria.

The committee reviewed the topics laid down by the joint preliminary committee of the two sisterly countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Cherif

LD0708182794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior, local authorities, and administrative reform, was received today by the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The interior minister has been in Tripoli since yesterday to attend the proceedings of the joint committees set up by the council of interior ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union. Yesterday, Mr. Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif met with Mr Muhammad al-Hijazi, Libyan minister of justice and public security.

Minutes of Meeting Signed

LD0708143994 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security and brother Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, the Algerian minister of interior and local authorities, this morning signed the minutes of the Libyan Arab-Algerian Security Committee at the final session of the meetings of the committee, which were held in Tripoli from 5-7 August. The minutes include the bolstering and strengthening of cooperation in the fields of protecting travel and identity documents and making them secure, combating psychoactive drugs and smuggling, and the exchange of information and expertise in the security field. [passage omitted]

The minutes on the formation of the joint committee for strengthening cooperation in the security field between the two brotherly countries was also signed, and the means of finding practical ways of implementing the clauses of the security agreement minutes were discussed and the means necessary to carry them out were established. [passage omitted]

Chadian Interior Minister Arrives 6 Aug

LD0608212294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Brother Abderamane Izzo, the Chadian interior minister, and an accompanying delegation arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security welcomed the Chadian guest.

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Sudan

Egyptian Minister's Cousin Receives Jail Sentence

EA0608204794 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)—Central Khartoum's public order criminal court has convicted Egyptian national Faruq Hasan al-Alfi, director of the Personnel Department at the Egyptian Irrigation [as received] in Sudan, on practising prostitution and bribery and sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 pounds.

The court, presided over by Judge Abdul-Hamid Muhammad 'Abd- Allah, recommended the expulsion of the convict from the Sudan immediately after he serves the prison term.

The convict, al-Alfi, holds the number three post in the Egyptian Irrigation in Sudan; he is a cousin of Egyptian Interior Minister Muhammad Hasan al-Alfi.

The convict had turned his home at the Egyptian Irrigation residential complex in Khartoum into a nest for committing adultery. He was arrested by public order police red-handed. The convict has even offered a large sum of money to the policemen as a bribe to set him free.

Financier Reportedly Monopolizes Exports

NC0708112794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 6

[Unattributed report from "The Brothers" page]

[Text] Independent Sudanese sources have revealed that Usamah Bin-Ladin [Saudi financier of Egyptian extremist groups] now monopolizes Sudan's major exports of Arab gum, maize, sunflowers, and sesame. According to the sources, the Sudanese Government will not receive the revenue of these exports in hard currency, since it agreed with Bin-Ladin that he will collect the revenue of these exports for 10 years in exchange for paving the Khartoum-Shindi Highway and building the Port Sudan Airport, 22 kilometers from the city, which was designed to receive the most modern planes.

The sources confirm that the [National Islamic] Front's government is supporting Bin-Ladin by purchasing dollars from him at the price of 500 Sudanese pounds. The sources warned against the threat Bin-Ladin poses to the Sudanese national economy, affirming that the economy will experience further deterioration if Bin-Ladin persists in pillaging the country's wealth.

The Sudanese sources explained earlier that Bin-Ladin channels a large portion of his profits to terrorist groups in a number of Islamic states.

Bin-Ladin's Saudi family has disavowed him and he is banned from entering Saudi Arabia.

First Vice President on Possibilities for Peace

EA0908105094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president, told our radio correspondent that the revolution is certain that peace will emerge from within the country through the entry of the governors into their southern states, and the assumption of their executive duties there. He added that this had been crowned by the Juba peace conference, and the issuing of its resolutions and recommendations, which called for peace and the rallying of the southerners under the banners of peace, which have been raised from within the country.

He said this had become evident to the revolution since the governors' entry into their various states and the emergence of loud voices from within the country to unite the internal front.

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Kuwait

Al-Ahmad Denies Secret Contact With Israel

LD0908085394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0703 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Aug (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti officials today strongly denied reports carried by the Egyptian [newspaper] AL- AHRAR that secret contacts have been made between Kuwait and Israel. The two officials stressed that such allegations are without foundation. In a telephone contact with the editor of Kuwait's AL-QABAS [newspaper], Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the acting prime minister and foreign minister, stressed Kuwait's firm stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and said that the stand is based on commitment to the Arab [words indistinct] and support for the Syrian and Lebanese demands [words indistinct] total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Views 'Media Campaign' Against Kingdom

LD0908100094 Riyadh SPA in English 2004 GMT 8 March 94

[Text] Jeddah, Aug 8, SPA—The Council of Ministers, which held its weekly session today under the chairmanship of Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, reviewed the current most important political and military events on Arab and international arenas.

The crown prince briefed the council on the current Arab situation, highlighting Saudi Arabia's intensive efforts, which are constantly exerted by it under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in order to bring about a just and a comprehensive peace in the Arab region based on the spirit of the Madrid peace conference, said Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir after the session.

The crown prince's briefing to the council also included a summary on King Fahd's meetings with the high-ranking officials who visited the kingdom during the last week to consult and exchange views with him on several crucial issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic worlds, al-Sha'ir told Saudi Press Agency.

The council's deliberations focused on rules pertaining to the information system, which is under discussion by it for the purpose of countering the media campaign against the Kingdom that is still continuing despite Riyadh's repeated denials, the information minister said. In this context, the crown prince got acquainted with the ministers' views on the information system prior to its submission to King Fahd as well as other reports submitted by the information minister in this regard, al-Sha'ir added.

The council, then, discussed the local issues on the session's agenda and took several decisions in the interest of the Saudi citizens in line with directives of King Fahd.

The information minister said the council decided to deal with the problem of overstayers and expatriates living without residence permits according to the rules which are published in the mass media. the council also approved a number of new appointments at the Foreign Ministry, al-Sha'ir said.

British Paper Reports Yemen Involvement Story

LD0808144594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1628 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Aug (SPA)—An official source today made the following statement to the Saudi news agency SPA:

Two days ago THE WASHINGTON POST carried a fabricated report to the effect that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had leased Russian planes and engaged the services of Russian pilots to take part in the Yemeni civil war. We issued at the time a categorical denial of the report because it is totally untrue and absolutely baseless.

The source added: What is astonishing and highly regrettable is that the British paper THE SUNDAY TIMES today carried the same report in a new version. It would have been more appropriate for a great and old newspaper respected by its readers such as THE SUNDAY TIMES to have used the categorical denial issued by the state to which the report was attributed instead of publishing the tendentious and malicious reports spread against it by untruthful sources.

Yemen

Source Says Foreign Pilots Participated in War

JN0908074394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 9 Aug (INA)—An informed Yemeni source revealed last night that a number of foreign pilots of Russian, Armenian, and Saudi nationalities, participated in the recent military operations of the secessionist rebels in south Yemen.

In statements in Sanaa last night, the Yemeni source said the Yemeni Government has documents on the names and nationalities of the foreign military personnel who supported the secessionist rebels in the recent war they ignited in Yemen. [passage omitted]

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Salih Chairs Meeting on 'Important Issues'

JN0908083194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting yesterday under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, in the presence of 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives.

The council discussed several important issues and developments on the local scene, as well as future missions to build a new Yemen. Praise be to God, and thanks to the sacrifices of our people and their armed forces, the rebellion was put down and sedition was extinguished after it was ignited by the secessionist rebels in the Socialist Party leadership with the aim of destroying the homeland and fragmenting its unity.

The council lauded the great sacrifices of our people and their armed forces in their valiant opposition to the conspiracy of the gang of rebellion and secession. Thus, unity has triumphed after its foundations were laid down by the pure blood sacrificed by the best of its sons and righteous martyrs.

The council reiterated the eagerness of the state to provide care and attention for the families of the martyrs and to take care of those who sustained injuries in the battle for unity.

The council also reviewed reports on the effects of the war imposed by the rebels on the homeland, including the destruction and damage to houses and public property and to the national economy, as well as the resources required for reconstruction.

It stressed the importance of mobilizing all efforts and popular and official capabilities to repair what was destroyed by the war and remove its traces. The council instructed the government to take all measures necessary for reconstruction and to come up with an appropriate mechanism for this process.

The council also studied the efforts being made to rebuild and reorganize the armed forces in light of the plan proposed by the brother defense minister and endorsed by the National Defense Council. The Presidential Council blessed these efforts, stressing the importance of building a modern Yemeni Armed Forces on national and scientific foundations to enable them to shoulder their responsibilities and national duties in defending the homeland, its sovereignty, and independence, as well as protecting its development gains and great achievements, primarily unity and democracy.

The council instructed the government to disband the militias and popular defense committees or any other private or party-sponsored armed groups.

Moreover, the council discussed the economic and supply situation and the suffering of the citizens as a result of price hikes. It asked the government to swiftly remedy the economic situation and reactivate the supply control agencies to reduce the unjustifiable price hikes, achieve stability for the citizens, and provide basic commodities at reasonable prices. It also asked the government to remedy the economic imbalances to lay down sound and strong foundations for a strong economy.

The Presidential Council instructed the government to adopt effective measures for financial and administrative reform and to appoint the right people to the right posts. The purpose of this is to ensure the modernization of the state and its administrative institutions, to upgrade the performance of administration, and to make the occupation of public posts a national duty and responsibility that should be given to qualified, honest people who abide by laws and regulations.

The council stressed the importance of applying the principle of reward and punishment in the state agencies, and the swift implementation of the retirement law in the civil and military establishments. This is in addition to introducing the necessary reforms in the diplomatic and consular corps, apart from party affiliations and in line with national criteria based on competence, qualifications, and loyalty to the homeland. This is meant to enhance the role of the Yemeni embassies in promoting ties with brothers and friends and to serve our people's higher interests.

The Presidential Council further discussed the inclination toward introducing local government as a basis for building the modern Yemeni state and broadening popular participation in authority. The council underlined the importance of expediting the implementation of local government, urging the need to reactivate the Higher Commission to restore administrative divisions in the Yemeni Republic, as well as its speedy implementation of its mission to enhance national unity.

The council also discussed several issues related to enhancing the democratic approach in our country, based on political and party pluralism. It asked the government to reactivate the law of political parties and organizations and to adopt the necessary measures to restore any state buildings or real estate occupied by the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, or any other political parties and organizations, provided these political parties and organizations rent their own headquarters from their own resources, in implementation of the law of political parties and organizations. This step is meant to lay down sound foundations to enrich democratic practices and fair competition between all political parties and organizations on the local scene.

The council emphasized that private ownership is safeguarded in line with the Constitution, and that there will be no infringement on the property of citizens and their acquired rights, whatever the reasons. It also asked the government to issue firm regulations to prevent any seizure by any person or party of the home of any citizen

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or the infringement on its acquired rights. The council asked the government to adopt firm, deterrent measures against any illegal attacks or practices by individuals, groups, and institutions, under whatever justification. This also applies to movable and immovable property, private and public property, homes, land, and otherwise.

The council also instructed the government to adopt the necessary measures that ensure the return of homes and private property of citizens, in line with the Constitution and in light of the remedies endorsed by the Presidential Council in this regard. This is done on the basis of not harming owners and beneficiaries.

The council reviewed other issues on its agenda, including the status of the [northern] Yemeni Airlines Corporation and the [southern) Yemen Airlines Corporation, Alyemda. The council asked competent agencies to take the necessary measures to complete the merger between the two companies in one national company owned by the state, since it is a symbol and embodiment of national sovereignty, in line with the requirements of the higher national interests.

The council also studied a report about the status of the Yemeni National Bank and the measures required for its modernization. The council asked the government to swiftly adopt the necessary measures to privatize the bank and turn it into a shareholding company to allow national capital a room for subscription and enhance its role in banking activity and serving the national economy.

The council reviewed the results of the activities and meetings of the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council on the domestic and foreign levels.

The council reasserted the Yemeni Republic's eagerness to promote its relations with all brothers and friends on the basis of mutual interests, cooperation, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. It stressed that the Yemeni Republic shall remain an important factor of security, stability, and peace in the region and the world.

The council also discussed other issues on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions toward them.

'Deceived' Soldiers, Helicopters Return

JN0908070394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Within the framework of the general amnesty law, and in response to the call made by Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to the brothers who were deceived by the gang of rebellion and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party, and who fled outside the homeland as a result of the sedition incited by those treacherous agents who conspired against the homeland and its unity, a number of military personnel have returned to the homeland.

The number of returnees is estimated at 316 soldiers, including the former commander of Shallal Brigade, commanders of the brigade's battalions, and a number of officers and soldiers. They announced that they would join the ranks of their brothers in the armed forces, and condemned [Former Yemeni President 'Ali Salim] al-Bid's secessionist announcement and the treacherous position of all agents and treacherous ones who ignited the sedition in the homeland with the aim of destroying it and fragmenting its unity.

Meanwhile, and within the framework of coordination between our country and the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, two military helicopters returned to the homeland. These helicopters were part of the aircraft with which the rebels escaped to some sisterly countries.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', an official source at the Defense Ministry expressed our country's thanks and appreciation for the sisterly Sultanate of Oman's fraternal cooperation and the role it played in the return of the deceived brothers, who fled to the sultanate with weapons, military machines, and equipment owned by the Republic of Yemen and the Yemeni people. The source thanked Oman for the facilities and fraternal care it offered to the Yemenis who arrived at the Yemeni-Omani borders from their arrival there until their return to the homeland.

The source hailed Yemeni-Omani relations, saying that these relations are fraternal and warm, and are based on entrenched grounds of good neighborliness, mutual respect, and constructive brotherly cooperation.

Al-Asnaj Seeks Support for South Yemen's 'Cause'

MM0908090094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with "South Yemen Foreign Minister" 'Abdallah al-Asnaj by 'Abdallah Hammudah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] How do you in the Yemeni grouping, which is a member of the South Yemen leadership alliance, assess the crisis and the present stage?

[Al-Asnaj] We are at the stage of tackling the results of the decline in the military aspect and also in external political activities as a natural result of the military decline. It is an experience full of lessons which we must learn. There is the experience of the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] many years in power, the alliances it has experienced since its establishment, the confrontations among its various wings, and preparation for the next stage in order to forge a new alliance based on the YSP with its southern elements and those committed to the general southern line.

The new Yemeni reality requires a new kind of handling and new principles. There is no longer colonialism or an

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imamate in Yemen. Nor is there a nationalist tendency in the manner we experienced at one point.

We can say that the "Pledge and Accord Document" signed in the Jordanian capital on 20 February, which enjoyed the support of all Yemenis, is the foundation on which the next stage can be built. Everyone is yearning for the Yemenis to have a constitutional and democratic experiment based on a kind of general coordination, cooperation, and ties between two parts: north and south.

It does not mean a secessionist tendency. We have always promoted unionist orientations since we joined political action. However, experience prompts far-sighted people to reconsider and reexamine the existing situation in Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Some people describe the southern alliance as fragile and weak. Is that true?

[Al-Asnaj] Everything starts small then grows. It will grow normally if the foundations are correct. Yemeni citizens in the south have a just cause. If we manage to promote this cause in the correct manner and to talk about the usurped rights and the inhumane practices contravening the Declaration on Human Rights—namely the repression, persecution, arrests, confiscation, and looting the people of South Yemen are experiencing—all this can form a just cause that public opinion inside the country would support and the outside world would sympathize with, that is if the crisis and political action are managed in a mature and able manner.

[Hammudah] Am I to understand that you are criticizing the YSP leadership?

[Al-Asnaj] I am criticizing anyone responsible for action in the south, be it the YSP or anyone else. I draw everyone's attention—including myself—to the need for a correct start, if we want this cause to enjoy the support of our citizens, the support and sympathy of our brothers in the region, and the support of anyone with a living conscience in the world.

[Hammudah] Now that there have been military and political losses, as you said, do you believe that diplomacy can achieve something?

[Al-Asnaj] Unless there is a popular move expressing its rejection of the new reality, it is futile to waste time and to claim that there is still room for political action. Political and diplomatic action depends on a popular base whose aspirations and demands it expresses. In the absence of all that, there is no need for political activities or diplomatic moves, because they will encounter no response in any field or at any level. [passage omitted]

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Saddam Speaks on Anniversary of War With Iran

JN0808102694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0704 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the sixth anniversary of the 8 August 1988 "Great Victory Day" marking the end of the Iraq-Iran war; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the help of God. He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in might, most merciful. [Koranic verse]

O great people, o valiant men in our brave Armed Forces: Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. The day we recall and mark every year is a great day. It is the day of days, as it carries the meanings of each preceding day throughout eight years of the duel between truth and falsehood. This day was then the result of eight years during which the courageous ones—the sons of faith and enthusiasm—recall the responsibility, the dear homeland, and the principles of the great meaning of confronting those who wanted to target both the country and all the sanctities the Iraqis placed on the path of ascension in their new life and birth.

A salute to you on that, and this, day and on all your days of steadfastness, jihad, sacrifice, and great construction. A salute to you, and blessed be your day of the days, the day of great victory in the glorious al-Qadisiyah. God is great.

The tale of Adam—may peace be upon him—says that after he disobeyed God, together with Eve, under the pressure of Satan's temptations, God ordered both Adam and Eve to descend to Earth in order to start life and create its nucleus. After forgiving them, God ordered Adam and Eve, along with Satan to descend to Earth. Satan told God: "O my Lord! Because thou hast put me in the wrong, I will make (wrong) fair-seeming to them on the Earth, and I will put them all in the wrong, except thy servants among them, sincere and purified by thy grace." [Koranic verse]

Ever since, Satan has been tempting people, except God's righteous worshipers. Ever since, Satan has been a catalyst for evil, turning it into wrath and aggression, after greed and envy dominated those whom Satan spoiled, so this became both aggression and grave evil. This was the prelude to the Iranian military aggression on Iraq on the morning of 4 September 1980. This aggression was preceded by many attacks which we referred to and detailed on several occasions.

That aggression developed and continued until God, the all merciful and compassionate, wished it to end in that well-known way, when he granted his victory on the Day of Days. A basic part of the circumstances and meaning of that day were established in the Communique of Communiques issued on that eternal, great day. From this picture of the recent past, and the events and battles seen therein, we derive the meaning of memories and remembering of the Day of Great Victory, 8 August 1988.

What is important on this occasion is not only to recall its events and the recent and past situations. But, what is important is to remember its lessons as well as the role played by the virtuous ones. We must also analyze the motives and reasons for the aggression and go deep into the meanings and the lessons that can be deduced on both sides of the conflict. This can help history understand events and reasons. It can also aid the faithful ones, who find that human lessons and not hatred and animosity should be taken as the basis. It will further keep the devil at bay after the acts of evil had turned it into a partner in the events of the beginnings, and continued to be so until the all wise and knowledgeable intervened.

How can we deduce lessons from this? What lessons can be derived through a fair analysis by people like us who were burned by the fire of these events and who went through the agony of every small and big event throughout eight years of the bitter conflict, and against the backdrop of a gap that still exists between us and Iran, despite the time that has elapsed and despite what the factors of goodness are doing to bring back the relationship to where it should be.

Now, after we had to put up with these burns, the evil is still coming to us from Iran. After the path of the balanced faith, with its pan-Arab and humanitarian course, has assumed its framework and track and its well-known pillars in the Iraq of faith, jihad, steadfastness, and sacrifice, how can we view the use of religion in politics to the extent of making religion take the blame for politics and even the sins of politics at times?

It is natural to say that religion has, with its deep meanings and heritage, become the closest, and most applicable, background in terms of meanings and pride in the Iranian peoples' history, as we see it. It has also become the most applicable to what Iran's situation may be with its positive relations with the Arabs, relations that follow a common line, based on the advance desire to build positive relations with the Arabs on the basis of the joint track, if the Iranians know how to choose the right path. This is because the background of some Iranian leaders, who are far from Islam, makes Iran return to the era of the Sasanians and what such an era promoted.

Such a return can only be the center of the racist and expansionist imperial aggression. They do not view the Arabs as the owners of a good heritage, who have favor in conveying the message of faith to Iran. They view Arabs as invaders who undermined the pillars of the empire which was at a certain time one of two empires in the East.

Iran's choice will be the right beginning if the views of some Iranian leaders toward the Arabs become different

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and if they recognize the special role given to them by the Holy Koran and the honest prophet, which was followed, after the prophet, by the caliphs and those who followed them.

We are concerned to see the ideal example coming from the Arab ranks. This will neither annul or weaken the special position of Iran or others. This also cannot mean that the Arabs are placed above others. This will make the Arabs serve the common objectives. Those is the sound path and direction which will place the efforts of Iran and the efforts and jihad of the other Islamic people within their sound framework.

The most important meaning of this is that the habit of the concerned parties in Iran, including the essential officials in Iran, should not be to compete with the Arabs in an aggressive way, proceeding from their desire to despise the past and present role of the Arabs. They also should not work in accordance with a false assumption based on a saying which is right in general terms and which is serious and destructive in its subsequent course which harbors no good intentions toward the Arabs. The call for rejuvenating faith stems from any Arab or non-Arab Islamic environment. As we are saying this, we cannot depart from God's wisdom and the prophet's teachings which reiterated the Arabs' leading role, not only in terms of the Islamic call, but also in terms of every heavenly message before Islam.

Whenever non-Arabs assumed leading and advisory roles, as happened during the Ottoman era, Islam faced bitter defeats. At the same time, we say to the Arabs: If you want to recall your role in the call, you should be its example. However, there is an essential difference between the situation of those who place their society on the bases and pillars of the call—such as the societies of faith at the time of the prophet and the caliphs, not forgetting age requirements so that faith will become firm and effective in hearts and minds and the objective of the call will be a competition in terms of examples so as to encourage the Arabs to revive their role—and the situation in which the call is divided and tarnished in terms of the views regarding the history of the Arab Muslims and in terms of dealing with the Islamic Arab heritage, its heroes, and symbols, as well as the situation in which Islam is only a guise to cover the expansionist desire and view at the expense of the Arabs' lands and role.

This is part of what we should say regarding Iran, and we will discuss this issue again. It remains to discuss something of concern to the Arabs and what should be said both to them and about them.

O Arab strugglers, o sons of our glorious Arab nation: The Arabs are now in the phase of crystallizing a general stand toward themselves and their nation as part of mankind which is suffering from the factors and manifestations of evil and from the devils of the 20th century. The Arabs' past role is absent. They have long lost the right starting path. This path leads to duties and objectives. While stumbling away from their path, the Arabs have made sure that disposing of the old colonialism is insufficient. The foreign armies and direct material forces used to oppress the Arabs and absorb the substance of their slogans about freedom and national option.

Colonialism changed its old face and employed new methods. However, the basic objectives of colonialism remained unchanged. In brief, these objectives aim to keep the Arabs away from their role and their right path in terms of playing a pan-Arab and humanitarian role. These objectives seek to preoccupy Arabs, whenever possible, with the manifestations of progress, distract them from the right substance of progress, and preoccupy Arabs with themselves and with side roads that do not lead to the essence of what will save the Arabs. The imperialist colonialists make sure part of the Arabs' capability, zeal, and awareness may make them choose an unsound option.

Neocolonialism has maintained its base and method which it used against the Arabs in the region following the Second World War—namely, the Zionist entity—so that it will play a support or alternative role in accordance with regional and international circumstances. Neocolonialism also enhanced the capability of Zionism against the Arabs by various means. Directly enhancing this entity's military capability at the expense of the Arabs is only one of these means. Everything is exposed now after neocolonialism's premeditated criminal policy has become clearer, even in its basic and subsidiary details.

A basic question, however, remains: What should the Arabs do? Under the international circumstances in which a measure of balance was achieved with the support of the former Soviet Union in confronting some plans by the United States, its aides, and its pampered ally—the Zionist entity—this measure of balance managed to achieve some known gains. However, it could not, and was unable to, guide the Arabs to the required sound path.

While aspiring for their role in the world following the Second World War, the Arabs adopted various slogans and methods in search of this path. Some Arabs believed that salvation lies in the full ideological and political capitulation to the Soviet Union, so the substance of this issue conflicted with the most cherished things inherited from the Arab heritage, fathers, and forefathers, namely, the great faith carried by the divine messages, led by Islam. Hence, some Arabs became atheists, thus disavowing not only the nation's right and the substance of its meanings as the cradle of prophets and the place implementing the messages but also the rights of themselves because they lost the right path after losing the guiding compass.

Some of those who stood fascinated by the trivialities of Western civilization and propaganda against others who

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oppose their civilization, strategies, and interests in the world are lost, thinking that the right road is represented by adopting the trivialities of politics, manifestations, and ways demonstrated by the West in formulating politics, economy, and social life. They drowned in the tumult of all that, without being rightly guided after they became corrupted, causing more harm than good.

As a reaction to both cases, some others thought that clinging to the nation—after expanding the concept of a nation to include other peoples and nations—lies in using religion in politics and indeed giving politics the garment of religion. They drowned in general things while the situation required specialization and concentration amid what is general in order to save the Arab nation via its own path, so it would first assume the role of a pioneer and a guide in terms of examples and meanings. That is if it was not able to assume a leading role for any reason whatsoever, whether this is linked to the Arab nation's weakness, its inability to exercise that role or the inability of other nations to keep up with the Arab nation's efforts on this road, for reasons it finds sound. Among these reasons are its special pan-Arab nature and nationalism.

Because of the inability of those who have opted for this, to come out with something new, convincing, and innovative—amid the heritage of eternal Islam, which is rich in its deep meanings and eternal lessons and to follow the road of faith and guidance, inspired by its spirit to keep up with this era—they adhered to the details of what they inherited as it is without innovating anything new for their age. They found themselves reiterating what is already known without building or guiding toward what is new and effective. They are following the general outlines with the hope of mobilizing the people to maintain the momentum of the nation and toward its aspiration for a life in its era and toward what is required in terms of influence on the appropriate tracks to reach an influential role. They found themselves capable of criticizing deviation and deviants on the bases of trying them in accordance with the inherited criteria without presenting a decisive alternative in a new ability to convince the future and enlightened generations of people. Because the owners of opposite interests are, in all circumstances, capable of facing such a call in terms of what is sensed in this life, those deviants, including the rulers, mobilized their circles and methods to draw circles with such an inclination to areas in which reason and human beings are threatened. They isolated part of their activity and diminished the ability of the greater influence on them, benefiting from mistakes that could happen here and there inside their societies. They harmed them a lot inside well known foreign societies after some of them lost their way and the right option to foil the counter arguments and to make the intentions of those who have premeditated intentions deviate from their objectives.

Here we wish to say that God almighty does not like repetition for man, except in the case of the well-known constants, including the worship of only one God, justice and virtue on land, and performing the accepted rites and rituals, each according to his own faith and conviction. Other than that, God almighty guided us to very clear and meaningful pictures of the importance of leaving repetition and the need for innovation, improvement, and change on the basis of that faith.

In his messages to prophets and messengers, God almighty introduced changes; he did not settle for what he had instructed Adam, God's blessings be upon him, or for the methods, ways, and vocabulary he used to guide man on how to live on land. Nor has almighty, the all wise, settled for what he instructed Abraham, the father of all prophets, and before him Noah. But, he sent prophets and messages each within his own phase and on the basis of his duties that correspond to the level reached by man and what he may understand in order to find the right way and ensure the necessary level of enthusiasm, sacrifice, and continuity. This continued until God almighty sent the holy Koran, charging the angel Gabriel, God's blessings be upon him, to deliver it to his chosen and beloved one, Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him. God made this the last of his messages and made Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, the truthful prophet, the last of his prophets. God, the all powerful, did not end the world after the new message and religion was delivered to his Prophet Muhammad. But he made it continue until God does what he wishes and ends the perishable life, in which case the people will find themselves each on his own road, according to his status, action, and position.

On that basis, God has left for man the door wide open to interpretation in life in the light of faith and what the developed state of affairs requires in terms of new conditions, in which the situation is considered in the light of its requirements. The best evidence on this can be seen in the fact that all peoples of Earth adopted different methods and creeds, which are not necessarily the same as others'. They were all introduced by people, whose opinion was energized only by faith, each according to his own beliefs in terms of standards and meanings and on the basis of the new situation, and according to his own viewpoint.

God almighty also wanted to give life the flavor of renewal and originality. He did not wish life to be a repeated endeavor in terms of its methods and vocabulary. But he almighty did not deviate from the singleness of Him and the importance of the ceaseless gratitude for his action and the fate connected to it. Is there anything that can give a greater and deeper indication of the importance of increasing faith by addressing it from various angles without deviation from its substance. Is this not a teaching method for man and the way to renew his quest and action on land and relations with other people to guide them to what pleases God in the substance of his messages, at the head of which is the message of Islam and following what the virtuous prophet, Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, instructed us to do.

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We view things in this way, not to theorize on the meanings of religion and the peculiarities of its branches, but in order to enable the politicians to find the right way to serve the substance of religion and its meanings. This can be achieved when one follows what is right and rejects evil, and when he finds the right way to enable man to have faith and to adhere to this faith in a better way and to have a more effective relationship with mankind and the requirements of the developing life in our current era on the path of virtue and what he may keep for the afterlife. In the process, religion should not be blamed for the political action and interpretations, as is the case when religion is made a cover for politics.

Let us view another example. The orthodox caliphs, the closest in terms of time and meaning to the prophet, who read and delivered the message, and to his application of that message, took care to convey the new message and religion and its applications to the Arab nation, and particularly the Arab nation in the East first. This was dictated by the need to resist the Byzantine and Persian Empires, the two basic pillars of injustice and tyranny. These empires were the closest to the base of the new religion on the one hand, and represented the meanings of falsehood, polytheism, and opposite ideas, supported by a brute force that could threaten, sabotage, and impose tyranny on the other.

The caliphs then disengaged lines with the Byzantines for some time after they withdrew from the Arab world. They chased the Persian armies in the east in view of their dangerous closeness. The Muslims did not get involved anywhere in Greater Syria or Iraq before they cleansed the Arabian Peninsula from polytheism and falsehood and before they made its people follow the path of the new faith.

The caliphs did not miss the correct practical way; that is, to deliver the message to the closest and then the closer to the base of faith. They, however, did not adjust the texts or teachings of faith on the basis of the practical aspects in applying policies related to what is needed. Nor did they explain their meanings and objectives as if they were for the Arabs alone.

Therefore, regardless of anything else, it is not advisable for the Arabs to generalize matters and not give their life and the better way to change life the necessary attention to ensure the enthusiasm of their kinsfolk when they recall more than one reason for their faith and action to achieve the salvation of the soul and save the entire nation, and then make it the example that can be emulated to renew the meanings and means for the stronger faith among Muslims everywhere.

Therefore, the call for faithful pan-Arabism is the new road to faith to rescue the nation and practice the humanitarian role. There is no alternative that can build the society of faith, the role, and the message in the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st Century.

We, God forbid, are not aiming to replace one faith with another. We are not placing pan-Arabism and faith in opposite, conflicting sides, as is advocated by the anti-Arabs or those who thought, wrongly, that pan-Arabism is a copy of the chauvinistic nationalist movements, particularly those which were the product of the western conflict over interests within their vicinity or on the level of the world as a whole. But we want to deny any sick or wrong concept on the possibility of such a conflict. We must also refer with the necessary clarity to the inevitability of the togetherness and interaction between the two. Neither faith nor pan-Arabism need replace their substance or adopt the texts of each other. This applies to the pan-Arabism inherited in its pre-Islamic form and the details of religion related to life, as based on various opinions and the meanings and details inherited from our forefathers.

Regarding this matter, there is also something that can help us in terms of what is mentioned in the holy Koran. The holy Koran adopted many issues and instances sanctioned by the early Arabs and their customs. Other nations did not adopt these things. Moreover, the orthodox caliphs adopted correct Arab concepts, some of which were inherited from previous phases of Islam, thus making the Arabs the basic element of faith, legislation, and leading of armies. By so doing, they did not proceed from pre-Islamic chauvinism but from faith that does not cancel the role of faithful pan-Arabism but makes it the framework for faith in order to spread and defend the call for the sake of mankind as a whole.

The prophet, God bless him, paid special attention to Quraysh [the prophet's tribe] and its unique men, and paid even more attention to the believers among them. He also gave to the infidels something that conforms to the meanings by which he sought to raise the status of religion and vilify infidelity and its models. All this was designed to serve Islam and spread the Islamic call.

Some people may say that the Islamic call, in general terms, merely facilitates the task of activating the masses against corrupt regimes, and instigating them to undermine these regimes, and makes it easy to veer from the heritage to try the rulers' manifestations and corruption instead of devoting efforts to mastering the political and intellectual fields. Along the same line, the same people say: As long as we are in the phase of changing the regimes, this road is not bad provided that we look into what is required following the phase of assuming power.

What the nation needs is not only criticizing the corrupt manifestations but also realizing the reasons which caused both the corrupt manifestations and their downfall to be repeated in the life of the Arabs in their modern and previous ages following the fall of Baghdad in 1258. Nothing has been more tested and is more effective than the faithful and militant pan-Arabism and its models and policy whether in terms of resistance or establishment of alternative regimes, along with its appropriate leaders and knights.

Putting a religious veil on politics and its plans and programs will inevitably cause those carrying this idea to clash domestically with the men of religion who take religion as a profession in terms of understanding and

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implementation in line with what was inherited prior to the new politicians who adopt this policy. This will also cause them to clash with wide sectors of their peoples among those who aspire for a status in their age which does not conflict with all its meanings except that doing so will cause these politicians to interpret religion from a specialized position. This will also clash with the interpretation of others, so a further serious dimension will occur in terms of confrontation and fragmentation in the societies comprising more than one community, group, and religion. Thus, the next chapter, after removing the regimes and rulers, will be full of division and fighting among the one people instead of seeking the support of a unified people, second to God, in order to entrench the pillars of revolutionary regimes and their policies against the intrigues of foreigners, imperialism, and their supporters.

In a nutshell, the Arabs have the constituents of a single nation. If this nation is to uphold its mission and lead a dignified and smooth life, it is in its strategic interests to promote its unity, and pursue vigorous, sincere, and honest policies fostering this concept. The Arab nation possesses the greatest and richest legacy in terms of monotheism and great faith. The Arabs were not merely passive recipients of this legacy. They interacted with its components, and demonstrated exceptional creativity in terms of its implementation. They are carrying the banners of this legacy. They are the swords ready to vindicate its meanings, and the people willing to enlighten mankind about its principles and the policies that need to be pursued to uphold it in hard times. They are ready to defend it when the aggressors carry out their aggressions. Consequently, it is inconceivable to formulate any political theory, or any supportive ideological creed that could have a serious impact on the nation's life at present and in the future, and, at the same time, acquire a measure of seriousness, nobility, good faith, and goodwill without deeply, profoundly, and thoroughly interacting with the nation's legacy and great history. In the course of such an endeavor, special emphasis should be laid on the role the nation played when it set a creative and bright example for mankind in the most prosperous eras of its history in terms of the civilization produced, the course this civilization took, the spiritual legacy built, and its applications in the Islamic community. Nonetheless, the nation should not do so through copying, but rather through interaction and creativity under the circumstances, and also through compliance with the rules in force, the rules it deems appropriate, given the choices it makes.

It is the duty of each and every Arab ruler to promote virtue, faith, and chastity, and to identify what causes one to err. Their measures must be inspired by the spiritual interaction with the nation's spiritual legacy, and also by the general phenomena and rules of the contemporary age. Once again, there should be no copying of the rules enshrined in the documents or scripts of either of the two. For, the relationship between the spiritual legacy of the past and the contemporary age should be governed by interaction through the activation of enlightened minds in order to draw benefits from the profound legacy of history. While doing so, rulers must be appreciative of the present and its prerequisites. Thus, they would promote the components and prerequisites of faith in the psyches of their peoples and nation, and spare themselves a clash, something which would prevent them from achieving the desired objectives and purposes. Additionally, by so doing, rulers would not burden religion with political mistakes or misjudgment.

Given all this, one can clearly see the difference between the unquestioning espousal of the scripts inherited from our legacy to use them as a guide for our modern times and life—something which would turn us into people who have canceled time and time intervals by bringing to life all anachronistic scripts and judgments—and interacting with the past; that is, with the cultural, historical, and spiritual legacy of the past in order to derive from it what we could in terms of the necessary pan-Arab and national solutions and judgments, which should not be a carbon copy of the past in its entirety, but which, at the same time, should not be a reflection of the present divorced from the past.

It is the right birth from the womb of a great past and a tradition rich in values and our nation's experience therein. It is our age—the age that our nation begot out of a deep and glorious past. I want to help whoever is listening to or reading our speech or who has already heard us on previous occasions.

Let me, by way of example, mention some of the Iranian leaders' mistakes, whose faulty choice, along with their complex-ridden thinking, are now raising their known slogans and calling Muslim Iraq their prime and immediate enemy. They have fallen into the grievous mistake by arguing that to liberate Palestine, Karbala' must first be freed. They thus put what they called the liberation of Karabala' ahead of the liberation of Palestine. They thus set the stage for enmity and hostility toward the Muslim and faithful Iraqis. They thus imposed inevitable rifts not only on Iraqis but on the Muslims at large. Their arrows were trained upon the hearts of Islam and Muslims rather than at the chests of the Zionists, their supporters, and allies.

One of the risks of a faulty choice in this area is that most often it leads to duality and slander and limits existence to impediments to the progress of life, thus forfeiting opportunities and forcing extraneous interpretations on religion. Thus the harm will be grievous measured against the damage it causes to truth and life and religion. The examples in reference to Iran in the contemporary history are many, be it on the battlefield or elsewhere, as well as in terms of the country's domestic and foreign policies.

The forces that were deployed in the immortal Mother of Battles and in besieging Iraq's mujahid people and prolonging the sanctions are contrary to all human values and divine and temporary laws, including those that were laid down and promoted and used by the West in international policies and activities of semi-official organizations that promote human rights. This sheds light on the role of these forces themselves in pushing the

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rulers of Iran to clash with Iraq and perpetuate the aggression, which they painted, to serve their goals, as an interminable conflict. The role of Iran's rulers and their supporters in the page of treachery and treason—one of the pages of duel in the 30-state aggression—was to cause considerable harm to the people of Iraq when blood was shed and honors violated and properties destroyed and funds stolen. All that throws light on the background of the rulers of Iran, and shows how deep they plunged themselves into hate and illusion even to the extent of their being used by the enemies of Arabism and Islam twice—once in the second al-Qadisiyah battle when they initiated aggression and kept it going for eight years, for all the generous calls made by Iraq to halt the armed conflict. The peace overtures that we initiated directly or through international and regional organizations were as many as 215, averaging 27 initiatives annually or more than two per month, all to no avail.

They have kept Iraqi prisoners although we have released all their 39,044 prisoners. Once again, their accumulated rancor and blind spirit placed them in the service of the 30-state aggression, having taken part in the cheapest chapter of the battle. They are still keeping the Iraqi warplanes which were evacuated to them during the first chapter of the military aggression, as well as the Iraqi civilian planes which were evacuated to them before the beginning of the aggression. This persistent aggressive course, which the Iranian rulers have exercised against Iraq and the Arab nation during the glorious al-Qadisiyah battle and the immortal Mother of Battles, clearly shows how badly they and their people need to reconsider the mentality which has made them fall victim to delusions regarding the Arabs, including the Iraqis. This course has made it clear to them and to others how dangerous it is to antagonize the Arabs and entertain the desire to control them. This is a path that they have wrongly chosen, driven by erroneous ideas.

The results of the examples to which I have referred in Iran's relationship with the Arabs through Iraq, as well as other examples, and Iran's role in siding with the forces of the 30-state aggression against the Muslim, mujahid people of Iraq, reveal the abyss into which the Iranian rulers have fallen. This explains why they conceal their true intentions, and why they are behaving this way toward the Arabs and Muslims. If the Iranian rulers do not reconsider all this, they will find themselves descending more and more into the bottomless abyss. To prove intentions and rectify the situation, there is nothing better than action. Saying something that effectively means the opposite is inadequate. An enlightened and experienced mind and a clear vision cannot be blind to their true, concealed intentions. Rectifying the situation through action serves the Iranian people and Iran's relations with its neighbors and its closet neighbors in the true sense of the word. Rectifying the situation, most importantly, should start with Iraq, which, once again, shows readiness for that. However, Iraq believes that this will not happen unless it starts with a step—though not a condition—that can be appreciated by everyone; namely, releasing prisoners and returning the Iraqi aircraft that are in Iran. Failing to respond to this call does not honor any Iranian. Rather, it should be noted that, by all standards, this has caused them immense disgrace, basically in the eyes of Islam and Muslims, as well as neighbors.

O Arabs, Muslims, and children of the people of Iran: Based on what I have said, you can learn about and remember the reasons that caused the Iranian rulers to twice become involved in aggression against the Iraq of faith, jihad, virtue, and honor. The first time was on 4 September 1980 when they started their military aggression by bombarding Iraqi cities and villages, accompanied by other aggressive acts, dragging the battle out for eight years. The second time was when they sided with the parties to the 30-state aggression, carrying out the chapter of treason and treachery in that aggression.

If we review the concepts of Arabism, Islam, politics, and faith you can see what road we in Iraq have followed and what has guided us on this road. God has blessed genuine faith and the sincere and sound behavior with his obvious victory on an auspicious day, six years ago, on 8 August 1988. Thus, that day became the dividing line between two options and courses; the right course and option and the wrong course and option. The crowning of this day with victory has enabled the Iranians to see unto themselves and what course they had chosen after they had removed the blindfold from their eyes. We thus became those who have guided them to the right course. Had the result been any different, God forbid, many would have remained bigots along the most rugged terrain, and the blindfold would have remained on their eyes for a longer time. This victory triggered the arrangements for the 30-state aggression which took place because of the victory we scored, victory that was blessed by the Compassionate and the Merciful.

We say it once again, and let the Iranian officials and people hear us; the past, with all the bitterness that it contains, will not cow us and make us negate our Islamic and humanitarian responsibility toward you. The most important aspect of our Islamic and humanitarian responsibility is to make you and the officials in Iran aware of the causes and parties which were behind what took place in the not too distant past, and to reiterate that a sincere and honest door for relations based on a sound relationship among the Muslims and their neighbors will remain open to all in terms of their relationship with Iraq, including the Iranian people. The remembrance of past sufferings can in no way dampen this desire or close this door. The sufferings will only be viewed as necessary lessons that have been immersed in pure blood after we have lost in them our most beloved ones, not to mention Iran's losses too. Our most important humanitarian task toward you is to make you aware and to remind you so that those who wish will see the sound course of how relations should be with the Arabs and with the Iraq of faith, jihad, and magnanimity.

O great Iraqi men and women: There are those who said that al-Qadisiyah began so that it would not end, and

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that if it ends, it will end with the victory of injustice over justice. But, God Almighty has comforted you in your distress and alleviated your pain after you have passed the test in patience and faith by granting you victory on the day of days.

Now, you are victims of those who have strayed from the right path, the apostates and treacherous people. You suffer in lives and property. However, God, who granted you victory in the glorious al-Qadisiyah, looks at you from above with the same eye with which He looked at you on 8 August 1988. Your determination and patience, as well as the determination and patience of your leadership, are strong. Crowning these meanings on a decisive day is near, God willing. God is great.

Greetings to the men of al-Qadisiyah, the basis of confrontation in the immortal Mother of Battles, and those who have produced the great result on the day of days.

Greetings to the great Iraqi women who had an uncontested role in firming up the determination of the men, and holding the country's flag on its mast in the rear lines of the fighters.

We ask God to have mercy on those who passed away.

Greetings to the Arab mujahidin, the faithful who believe the Arab nation is a great base of faith.

We ask God to have mercy on the martyrs of the Arab nation and Islam.

Greetings to the people of Palestine. Long live Palestine free and Arab. Long live Palestine.

Greetings of peace to the Iranian people, and we sincerely ask God to help them not to deviate and that peace and security would prevail in the region if there are good intentions and sincere work replaces all others.

God is great. God is great. Accursed be the lowly.

Saddam Congratulated on 'Great Victory Day'

JN0908052894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received congratulators on the occasion of the Great Victory Day.

Present to extend congratulations to his excellency on this great occasion were 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, vice presidents; Tariq 'Aziz and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, deputy prime ministers; members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; and fighter members of the General Command of the Armed Forces.

The president thanked those who came to extend congratulations and asked them to convey his greetings and congratulations to their families and to the entire steadfast Iraqi people on this immortal day in the history of great Iraq.

Turkish Planes Attack Kurdish Areas

NC0808175594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] This morning six Turkish warplanes attacked several border areas inside the Kurdistan Region, wounding six pishmerga fighters. The air attack lasted two hours.

An authoritative source from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said two Turkish warplanes resumed their rocket attacks at 0910 today, killing six pishmerga fighters and one Christian citizen and causing extensive material damage to civilian property. The second air attack lasted 75 minutes.

Death Toll Reported at 43 in Intra-Kurd Clashes

NC0808210794 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Qal'at Dizah, Iraq, Aug 8 (AFP)—Forty-three people died in weekend clashes between rival Kurd factions which erupted in this northern Iraqi town, hospital officials said Monday [8 August].

Sixty-three others were wounded in fighting which flared Saturday [6 August] between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) led by Jalal Talabani and the pro-Iranian Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL).

Rocket explosions could be heard regularly on Monday in the southern outskirts of Qal'at Dizah, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Iraq-Iran border.

The fighting is the worst since the PUK and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) announced in Paris on July 23 an agreement to stop fighting over power-sharing.

Officials from the two sides said 21 people from two families were killed in a single rocket explosion in a house in Qal'at Dizah.

Half of the town's 250,000 inhabitants have now fled to the neighbouring town of Raniyah.

Those who remain seek shelter wherever they can from missile attacks. On Monday 100 people, mainly women and children, were packed into an underground garage.

'Abd-al-Ilah, a senior member of the KIL led by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Uthman, said PUK fighters controlled the town but the KIL held the outskirts.

The PUK has accused its enemies of receiving backing from Iranian forces and of trying to capture Qal'at Dizah.

Other Kurdish sources say the KIL is supported by Mas'ud Barzani's DPK.

At least 100 people died when the DPK and the PUK clashed in May.

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Kurds in northern Iraq broke away from Baghdad's control in an uprising against President Saddam Husayn in 1991 at the end of the Gulf war.

'Mujahideen' Kill 2 MKO Members in Baghdad

LD0908105894 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov. Aug. 9, IRNA—Iraqi Muslim mujahideen killed two members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in Baghdad last week, reported the Voice of Revolutionary [Rebellious] Iraq Tuesday. Quoting informed sources in Baghdad, the radio said that the two MKO members were killed in the suburbs of Baghdad.

In recent months the MKO agents, commissioned by the Iraqi Army, have stepped up terrorist operations against the Iraqi revolutionary Muslims. The terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization while refraining to disclose the identity of its two murdered members, has called on its agents not to appear in the public, reported the radio. In late June, the radio reported another retaliatory operation in Baghdad in which one of the MKO agents was killed.

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Peres: Christopher Not Returning to Damascus

TA0908043794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is ending his Middle East tour without returning to Damascus. This was announced by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following a meeting with Warren Christopher in Jerusalem yesterday. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that prior to that meeting, Christopher met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Answering a question posed by our correspondent as to why Christopher is not returning to Damascus, Peres said there are some things Warren Christopher must digest and ideas that must be studied and assessed. Minister Peres noted that the next move must be examined, and such an examination must be thorough and lengthy.

Rabin Holds News Conference on Jordan Talks

TA0808154494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1435 GMT 8 Aug 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Moriah Plaza Hotel in Elat upon his return from a meeting with Jordan's King Husayn in al-'Aqabah—live]

[Text] [Rabin] Good afternoon, as you can very well see by the color of our faces, we spent quite some time in the sun today. Before I turned white I used to be a redhead, which means that any exposure to the sun makes me turn red.

Today was yet another special day. The Washington Declaration was signed on Monday two weeks ago. It was a significant milestone in the changing relationship between Israel and Jordan. It ended the state of belligerency or, as the king put it, the state of war. Following the end of the state of war, what remained was to build the edifice of peace. The Washington Declaration contains many clauses concerning negotiations on points which must be solved in order to arrive to the signing of a peace treaty. In addition to pursuing the negotiations, we must create a new kind of reality which will illustrate both to the Israeli and the Jordanian people that something has changed.

Indeed, almost two weeks after the signing of the Washington Declaration, a telephone line opened yesterday between Israel and Jordan. Although this is not yet a direct telephone link—simply because we do not have a line to Amman—we can now phone Jordan through the United States. The first phone call was between King Husayn and Israel's President 'Ezer Weizman.

Although the Jordan River bridges had been open since the end of the Six-Day War, today we inaugurated the first crossing between sovereign Israeli territory and sovereign Jordanian territory. The reasoning behind keeping the bridges open was to stay in touch with the Jordanian citizens in the West Bank, in Judaea and Samaria. For the first time today, a crossing was opened between Jordan and Israel, straddling the border between our and their sovereign territory. This was done in a ceremony.

After the ceremony the king invited me and my colleagues to spend some time with him, hold talks, have lunch—talking also takes place on such occasions—and go on a cruise. Although one can also talk while being on a cruise, I must admit that owing to the fact that the king apparently loves to drive his yacht he was busy all the time. Nevertheless, we held a dialogue.

I regard all these as stages in the implementation of the Washington Declaration. This is a process which is beginning to materialize and which I hope and believe will lead to peace. It does not yet constitute a normalization in relations, seeing that Israelis are not yet free to travel to Jordan. However, in this as well as in other processes, I believe in the theory of stages. Progress must be made step by step if we indeed want to create something solid and steadfast.

I believe that the last two weeks created a new and better reality and climate, which proves that progress toward peace is possible. We have not yet attained all we want, and neither have the Jordanians. However, I believe we have created the climate and the ability to conduct an overt and public dialogue in front of the cameras and the microphones. I regard this is as a new, positive, and good situation. I believe that the fact that the Knesset endorsed the Washington Declaration with the vote of 91 of 96 Knesset members present in the plenum—while the Camp David accords were endorsed by 74 of 119 Knesset members—is an expression of Israel's yearning, regardless of party affiliation, for a peace process with Jordan.

I thought that after visiting al-'Aqabah as the king's guest it would be fitting to hold the news conference here, in Elat, and nowhere else, in the hope that in the not-so-distant future there were be freedom of passage between al-'Aqabah and Elat. I believe this will be for the good of the residents of both cities. Thank you very much.

[Roni Daniyel, Israel TV 2 correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister. What will be the next practical step. We have seen ceremonies and felt the atmosphere. What is the next step?

[Rabin] I do not know whether a direct telephone conversation with Jordan is atmosphere or a practical act. I do not know if opening a first border crossing since the State of Israel was founded on a Israel's sovereign territory between Israel and Jordan is atmosphere or a practical step. At the same time, I am aware of the fact that the border crossing does not yet freely serve Israelis. I believe that atmosphere and deed, atmosphere and reality, walk hand in hand. The Israeli-Arab conflict consists of psychological barrier and vested interests. In

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most cases, it is harder to destroy the psychological barrier than it is to solve the practical problems between us and the Arab partners. I will not say what will be the next step. Several ideas and several issues have been raised. As a rule, I am against pretending that everything is open and will end tomorrow. Much work is still needed. There are still obstacles; there still are differences on several issues. And yet, we must move forward wherever possible, and leave unresolved problems for later stages in the negotiations.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz] [Words indistinct] ...an aide to 'Arafat, that you will meet on Wednesday [10 August] with Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the problems between the two countries?

[Rabin] It is very probable that an Israeli group—including, but not only, myself—will meet with 'Arafat and his team at the Erez checkpoint on Wednesday. This matter has not yet been finalized. Having signed both the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement, we implemented Gaza and Jericho First. Our teams are currently in Cairo dealing with the issues of early empowerment. The issue of elections was not raised until this day, although we agreed to discuss it with them. At the same time, we must examine not only these negotiations, but also hold a dialogue with the PLO, on the most senior level, regarding its ability to implement the agreements in the absence of an apparatus working between the donor countries and the Palestinian Authority. This would allow the transfer of funds to the tune of $300 to $500 million. The funds are to pay for the developments of projects in Gaza and the wages of the police and other officials. We need to see that there are funds for what is taking place and what is needed in Gaza. In the absence of such funds and if indeed this is due to the fact that the Palestinians are unable to reach direct dialogue with the donor countries, we must ask ourselves where we are headed. What financial backing will be provided for agreements that we are willing to accept? We want to make sure that if indeed such agreements are attained, they will have a budgetary backing. If there are no budgets, the agreements are not worth the paper they are written on. Therefore, such a meeting may be held. Its purpose will be to clarify and conclude matters. We are shirking none of our responsibilities. At the same time, we demand reciprocity in keeping commitments.

[MA'ARIV correspondent Ya'aqov Erez] Are there any visible cracks in the psychological barrier between us and Syria? Has Christopher's recent visit to Damascus yielded anything, or will we continue witnessing flimsy contacts between us and Syria, the other side of which include last week's the clashes in south Lebanon?

[Rabin] I would not want to discuss the issue of the incidents in south Lebanon at this time, although they are very painful. We lost two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, and it hurts us all. Also, I believe that we need not fear the katyushas, now or in the future, unless something unexpected happens, and it may occasionally be from our side. I know that Hizballah and the Palestinian rejectionist organizations constantly carry attacks against us from Lebanon. This did not change, and we must continue facing this. We must carry on with our main task there; guaranteeing and protecting peace for the residents of the north; guarding the security zone, which is essential to this end; seeing to it that the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers, who are on a primary national mission there and are those who personally provide the Galilee with peace, are hurt as little as possible. This is war, and war breeds casualties.

As for Syria, which certainly could prevent this terror activity if it really wanted to, I did not expect substantive progress during the current visit there by the secretary of state, although I assume—and I only heard his very brief report when we met in al-'Aqabah—that progress with Syria will not take the shape of a sudden breakthrough. At least this is how I see things today. It is an ongoing process. We believe the continued visits here by the U.S. secretary of state are important. They aim to clarify matters, differences, and the gaps between our and the Syrian stands, which are still wide and deep.

On the other hand, judging from what I was told, my feeling is that Syria wants peace. The problem is price, timing, timetables, and the extent of parallel between the various stages. I have not despaired of making peace with Syria; I am far from this. At the same time, I do not suggest that we, and particularly I, assume it could happen tomorrow.

[DAVAR correspondent Dani Bloch] There are rumors that, in view of the positive atmosphere in Israel and the favorable public opinion regarding the peace process, there is some tendency to advance the elections. Do you believe this is a realistic option?

[Rabin] At this stage, I see no reason to advance the elections. This government has undertaken to see its term through in order to promote and use every option to make peace, and to change the order of national priorities of domestic issues. Therefore, I see no reason for this at this stage, and I suggest that political speculations be avoided.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Yehudit Bodeq] You have just returned from a first visit to Jordan. When can we expect a first visit by a Jordanian official, or King Husayn, in Israel? Also, the Jordanian writers' association has announced that it is against any sign of normalization between Israel and Jordan. How do you view this?

[Rabin] Regarding your first question, you have heard the King's response. Since he answered the way he did, I certainly have no further information. As for your second question: We have a problem, not only in Jordan, but also in Egypt with which we have a 15-year-old contractual peace. The bar association, the writers' association, and others oppose meeting Israelis. We are

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aware of the fact that there are such circles even in the only country with which we have had a peace contract for the past 15 years. The circles are mostly intellectual, not to mention religious, and are not yet willing to accept and recognize the decision their own country made regarding peace and normalization. There is no normalization with Jordan yet and, just as there are Israeli sectors in opposition to the government's acts, it should be understood that it may happen in Arab countries as well.

[JERUSALEM POST correspondent Yehuda Halevi] Could you please tell us, Sir, where are we headed in each of the three substantial issues between us and Jordan—refugees, border demarcation, and water?

[Rabin] Allow me to remind you, if you read the Washington Declaration carefully, it makes no mention of the issue of refugees. It is interesting that no one noticed this, but it is no accident. Someone gave some thought to the Washington Declaration. So, the main issues between us and Jordan are water and borders. Israel's border with Egypt and Jordan is based on the British mandate borders. The part of the border in the 'Arava Valley has never been marked; that is, the British did not demarcate it when they had a mandate on then Palestine, and it was not demarcated in the cease-fire agreements since. That is why there is a lot of thorough work to be done in order to mark it clearly.

The water issue has two parts: Distributing the existing amount of water, and there is very little of it; and creating new water sources. Regarding the distribution, we more or less have arrangements, certainly regarding the distribution of the water from the major sources. The creation of new water resources is part of the development plans for the 'Arava region. Unless giant investments are made—and I am speaking of sums that neither Jordan nor Israel have—it will be very hard to develop the area between Elat and the Dead Sea—excluding Elat on the one hand and the Dead Sea on the other hand, and the development of secondary points between these two. If investments are not made by other sources, it will be very hard to implement the development plans.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Moshe Vardi] Mr. Prime Minister, how long have you known King Husayn personally?

[Rabin] Since it has already been published, I will tell you. When President Clinton, King Husayn, and myself were left alone in the White House, the President asked us: Tell me the truth, how long have you two known each other? I looked at the king, and he did not answer. So I said: 21 years. He corrected me and said: 20 years; and he was right.

Paper Sees 'Special Meaning' in Ties With Jordan

TA0908074994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Turning Point"]

[Text] Much of what happened in the 'Arava and al-'Aqabah yesterday was more symbolic than substantive. The festive opening of the Israel-Jordan border in the 'Arava was an exciting and moving event, but the border between Israel and Jordan has been open, at least in one direction, almost since the Six Day War. Jordanians, other Arabs, and foreign nationals have been able to cross the Allenby Bridge with virtually no interruption. Only Israeli nationals could not cross, and they still cannot. For now, the only concrete change is that Israelis who have dual nationality can visit Jordan on a foreign passport. Presumably, complete freedom of movement will await further steps in the normalization process.

Similarly, there was nothing new in the visit of an Israeli prime minister to Jordan. It has been done by Rabin himself—who first met King Husayn 20 years ago, as he revealed yesterday—and by other premiers. The difference this time around was that the visit was open and official, not secret and "deniable."

Yet the media description of the day as another historic milestone in the relationship between Israel and its neighbors was not extravagant. As Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin aptly put it, the ceremonies served to shatter a psychological wall. After all, the Arab refusal to recognize Israel's legitimacy has been a major obstacle to peace. True, the first such breakthrough was effected by the late Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the ensuing Israel-Egypt peace treaty. But the first step in transforming the de facto peace with Jordan into a full-fledged, official relationship between the two countries has special meaning.

Jordan is not only the country whose border with Israel is the longest and the closest to Israel's population centers. It is a country whose population is essentially Palestinian. As Husayn himself once said, "Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan." And while the Palestinian problem is by no means the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and peace with the Palestinians in no way guarantees peace with other Arab regimes, it is with Palestinians that Israel must coexist in close proximity.

It is fashionable today to make a distinction between Jordanian Arabs and Palestinian Arabs. Even Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has made a point of contradicting what Husayn used to say and stressing that "Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine." But fashionable slogans, designed to justify the recognition of the PLO, do not change political and demographic realities. What Rabin once wrote in his memoirs, and what the Labor Party used to hold as an article of faith, is still true: there are two peoples, one Arab and one Jewish, living in the area of the original British Mandate of Palestine, which included both banks of the Jordan. To split this Arab people into two nations is an artificial maneuver designed to undermine Israel.

If there is a virtual wall-to-wall consensus in Israel on the Washington Declaration and the handshake with Husayn, it is not because the prospective peace with

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Jordan is seen as complementary to the agreement with the PLO, but because it is hoped that Husayn will replace 'Arafat as Israel's peace partner. Leaving aside the obvious differences in the personalities involved, the vast majority of Israelis would rather deal with the Hashemites, whose center of gravity is in Amman, than with the PLO, whose political center is in Jerusalem and whose goal is not to live with Israel, but to replace it.

Indeed, Rabin has much to be pleased with today. For the first time since Labor rose to power, he has not only the world community but the whole nation behind him. This is because in dealing with Jordan he has lived up to what he and his party have traditionally stood for. If he wishes to continue enjoying such support, he would do well to remember Labor's traditional principles on the Golan when he turns to negotiate with Syria.

Hizballah Said To Halt Katyushas Due to IDF

TA0908112794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says the firing of katyushas in the north has stopped because Hizballah understands that the continuation of the attacks could cause the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to expand its activity in Lebanon. Lieutenant General Baraq made these comments during a tour of a women's basic training base in central Israel. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views King Husayn, 'Arafat Partnership

TA0908134194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The King and the Pauper"]

[Text] Were King Husayn to agree to come to Israel his well-wishers would easily fill Tel Aviv's Hayarqon Park. Even without doing so, he has become the biggest star in a continuous audiovisual production which is probably making the great Hollywood producer Cecil B. de Mille turn in his grave with envy: dramatic appearances in the White House and in Congress, followed by an aeronautic show over Israel's skies and a ground and sea extravaganza in al-'Aqabah.

Who needs Hayarqon Park when the whole world has become his stage and Rabin's aides his impresarios? Were I in his shoes, in exchange for writing off $200 million a year I would even be prepared to shave my groomed beard in the Ramat Gan Stadium.

It could not be helped, Israelis fell in love with King Husayn the First. They were thrilled by his virility, his basso profundo, his regal manners, the things he said, and mainly, the way he said them. Even if he did not give away anything we did not have in our relations other than the publicity—nothing to be dismissed, of course—we were all over the floor with marvel at the generosity with which he gave the little he did.

Had it been up to us, there is no doubt that we would gladly take him instead of 'Arafat; let Husayn be the leader of the Palestinians and 'Arafat be the king of Jordan. How nice it would be to steal horses with Husayn, pester Syria and annoy 'Arafat, pull a fast one on Peres and his "suits," and run together from one ceremony to another, from one microphone to the next. He is so well-dressed, his wife is so pretty, and his English is impeccable.

Rabin truly melts when he is around him. We never saw such softness in his face and manners as when they co-starred on the same stages. The softness and personal empathy were particularly evident when compared to the expressions of disgust during the ceremonies with 'Arafat. There is no doubt that the same thought went through Rabin's head: What a shame that 'Arafat is 'Arafat and not Husayn.

Unfortunately, however, it is not up to us to choose which of our enemies will be our partners in peace talks. Both Husayn and 'Arafat were Saddam Husayn's allies. Neither shed any tears when the Iraqi Scuds paralyzed the State of Israel and crushed our national pride. And although Husayn extended practical aid to Saddam (both with equipment and by allowing him passage) and the hands of his glorious grandfather 'Abdallah are tainted with Jewish blood more than those of the PLO leader, we forgive him sooner than we do 'Arafat. Because this guy with his ornate gun, his semi-military suit, his Pidgin English, his unbearable obstinacy and fickleness is an Arab it is a pleasure to hate.

However, as Peres says, peace is not just summer parties. The core of the Arab-Israeli conflict was and remains the Palestinian problem. Its representative, unfortunately, is Yasir 'Arafat. Had the London agreement materialized in 1987, 'Arafat may have been Husayn's problem today. Now he is our problem. It is with him that we must reach an accommodation in order to put an end to the circle of violence in this land.

Admittedly, Husayn is known to be a brave man. So brave, that we had to wait 20 years before he agreed to make a deal with us. Even then, he did not say his public "yes" before 'Arafat did or before he saw the agreement with the PLO implemented in the field. From his point of view, Husayn jumped onto a speeding wagon almost at the last minute. But the man who had to make the toughest decision was 'Arafat, because this decision involved giving up the Palestinian national dream, compromising on a land which they claimed to be entirely theirs, recognizing the Jewish state, and renouncing the armed struggle against it. And, all this he did while being isolated in the Arab world and among his people and by starting to build something from scratch, from zero infrastructure and zero resources.

The difference between Husayn and 'Arafat is that in exchange for a small gesture the former was forgiven for

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siding with Iraq and received an initial aid of $1 billion. In contrast, 'Arafat received promises for $2.2 billion which he cannot get because he lacks the infrastructure and without which he cannot build an infrastructure.

Given the choice between a king and a pauper, Rabin definitely opted for the king. Husayn appeals to us because he is clean and tidy, knows how to fly a plane, to shed a tear in the right place and the right time, and to do everything possible for the sake of a supreme and vital goal: his survival. However, everything hinges on 'Arafat.

The division that the popular Husayn belongs to Rabin while the revolting 'Arafat belongs to Peres is entirely in the imagination of the prime minister's courtiers. It is not in our interest to see 'Arafat fall or fail due to economic reasons, lest we find Islamic fundamentalism lurking behind the door—and the land will be awash in blood for generations.

'Arafat Reportedly To Replace Pro-Jordanian Waqf

TA0808120294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 94 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat has recently decided in principle to establish a Palestinian mechanism to replace the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem, which is controlled and financed by Jordan. According to the plan, the PLO will finance the new mechanism, which will be composed solely of Palestinian officials. So far the PLO has not taken any practical steps toward establishing the new mechanism, because 'Arafat first wants to exhaust the direct contacts with Jordan, as well as the discussions between Arab states and among international forums regarding the control of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. Also contributing to the delay is the financial crisis which the Palestinian Authority is facing, which will prevent it from paying the salaries of some 2,400 waqf employees and other expenses involved in managing the waqf.

Last week 'Arafat sent to the waqf management one of his advisers bearing a memo emphasizing that Jerusalem, including the Islamic holy sites, must be under Palestinian control. The Jerusalem waqf leaders have denied the reports on the meeting and on Palestinian demands included in the memo. Waqf manager 'Adnan al-Husayni yesterday said no such memo has been received, adding that after he checked the matter with Palestinian Authority people he can say that there is no intention to establish a "Palestinian Waqf." Al-Husayni said this is a "political problem which will be resolved in contacts between Jordan and the PLO, possibly in the framework of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. Israel has no right to intervene in this issue. 'Arafat was angered by the fact that Israel has granted Jordan a religious supervisory status in Jerusalem."

'Arafat's plan to establish a mechanism replacing the waqf is part of a policy aimed at minimizing Jordan's influence in the territories in general, and in Jerusalem in particular. This policy was formulated in the wake of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement and due to the controversy between the Palestinians and Jordan over the control of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The heads of the Palestinian Authority decided to curtail the movement of pro-Jordanian personages in the territories and to restrict the number of official visits by Palestinian representatives in Jordan. These moves come in addition to the decision to close down the pro-Jordanian newspapers AL-NAHAR and AKHBAR AL-BALAD.

The decision to establish a Palestinian mechanism replacing the waqf comes in the wake of steps taken by Jordan to strengthen its influence in Jerusalem. The Jordanian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry has recently directed the waqf management, which is under its charge, to transfer an updated list of all Waqf employees. This was done with the intention of firing or retiring many employees and appointing in their place workers who are not identified with the PLO. Jordan has also clarified to various institutions in Jerusalem, especially the al-Maqasid Hospital, that it is willing to help finance their expenses. [passage omitted]

Asylum-Seeking Kurds Deported to Lebanon

TA0808155994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Two Kurdish families who escaped from Iraq and intended to seek political asylum in Israel were arrested overnight in the security zone in south Lebanon and deported through the Bayt Yahun crossing. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] sources told our correspondent Nati Zilberman that UNIFIL troops transferred the two families to a hospital in Tibnin, where they were given refuge and food.

U.S., Europe Vie for Economic Preeminence in Area

TA0508125394 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 p 8

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "On the Economic Issue"]

[Text] Dramatic developments with Jordan have drawn our attention to U.S.-Israeli relations, but we should pay attention to another important aspect which has diverse implications—the fact that Jordan has now finally entered the sphere of American influence. On the face of it, King Husayn's pro-Western and pro-U.S. tendencies seem self-evident. A historic study, however, shows that the U.S.-Jordanian relations have typically had ups and downs, and that Jordan has not always supported the U.S. Middle East policy.

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Those who remember the state of the political process on the eve of the Gulf crisis must have noticed that Jordan did not take part in the initiative then, which focused on an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. Jordan was against the move and, with others—Arabs, European, and USSR elements—tried to make it fail. What is important in this context is the fact that the initiative was exclusively maneuvered by the United States without incorporating its European allies and as a challenge against the weakening USSR under Gorbachev.

These facts are important not only for historic studies, they have important current implications: The United States is once again pushing its European allies out of the Middle East political process, only this time Jordan stands on the U.S. side and against the European countries with which it cooperated before the Kuwait crisis. This is not just political maneuvering with abstract Meaning. It is about realizing economic interests. The developing Israel-Jordan relations have a clear economic significance. It was expected that the economic issues pertaining to the Israeli- Jordanian bilateral talks would be dealt with on the multinational track. And yet, when the talks reached fruition, the economic issues, which were dealt with by the multinational forum, were expropriated by the bilateral track which the United States manages exclusively. Russia's participation in this track as the second cosponsor lacks economic significance. Therefore, the Washington Declaration is not only a joint Israeli-Jordanian statement which mentions Washington as the site where it was made public, but it is an announcement granting Washington priority on economic matters related to the agreement between Israel and Jordan.

This issue is of further importance when speaking of expanding the circle of countries joining the peace process. Syria's rejectionism again created a possible role for Iraq as the Arab superpower that will support Jordan. Iraq is interested in assuming the role, and has hinted to those dealing with the issue of refugees that it is willing to rehabilitate refugees on its soil. Yet, a quick glance at the Middle East map clearly shows why the United States might find it hard to prefer Iraq over Syria: Iraq, Jordan, the territories, and Israel constitute a territorial continuity which could serve as a foundation for a market which—via the Israeli and other Mediterranean ports—is naturally connected to the EEC. This state of affairs does not coincide with the U.S. economic interests. It is therefore to be expected that the Americans will try to delay Iraqi participation while rushing Syria forward. Presumably, this is the reason why U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher did not heed Israeli recommendations to postpone his arrival to the Middle East. Competition over the time issue in this regard is being waged between Europe and the United States. If Syria is late in moving forward, it might help Europe promote Iraq. Could this be the secret reason for the recent visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Paris and other European capitals?

This solves yet another riddle: Why did Europe pressure Lebanon to join the multinational process while the United States stayed indifferent to Syria's boycott of this track? It appears that the Europeans decided to suspend economic aid for Lebanon until it joins the multinational talks. As is well known, Europe plays a central role in the multinational talks, while the U.S. role is marginal. And indeed, the United States is not pressing Syria to call off its boycott of this track, while applying pressure to accept the Israeli offers on the bilateral track which the United States is leading. Another significant implication of this situation is, naturally, related to the Iraq-Saudi Arabia equation in the Persian Gulf. Syria's participation will help the United States protect its allies in the Gulf against Iraq's participation in the political processes in the Middle East.

Last week, the United States decided to impose economic sanctions on Japan. This development could breed open economic tension between the United States and Europe. Israel will not be able to delay making a strategic decision for very long: It will have to decide where its political future lies—Europe or the United States.

Ghana Resumes Diplomatic Relations

TA0908113794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 9 aug 94

[Text] Ghana has decided to resume its diplomatic relations with Israel. The resumption of relations at the ambassadorial level takes effect today. Ghana was one of the African countries which broke off relations with Israel after the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Officials Attack EU's 'Lack of Political Vision'

MM0808120294 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 08 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Julian Ozanne: "Israel Close to Trade Conflict With Europe"]

[Text] Israel may be making peace with Arab states but it seems on the brink of trade conflict with the European Union.

In recent days Israeli officials have bitterly attacked the EU [European Union], its main trading partner for a "complete lack of political vision" in negotiations over a new free trade agreement and threatened to take trade sanctions and switch public procurement from European to US companies.

Officials negotiating the new accord aimed at reducing Israel's $5.7bn [billion] (3.67bn pounds) trade deficit with member states say the EU has refused to make concessions which recognise the political and economic sacrifices Israel has made to achieve Middle East peace.

Israel's campaign to be granted a special status with vastly improved access to research and development programmes and agricultural markets has been blocked

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in two rounds of negotiations earlier this year originally aimed at completing a new agreement by December.

Israel says it deserves a special agreement tailored to its developed economy in recognition of the economic concessions it is making to Arabs such as opening its agricultural market to Palestinian produce—as part of the Middle East peace accords.

"We are not asking the EU to contribute to the political and economic stability of the new Middle East by granting us jets and tanks but by giving us access to their markets," said Mr Oded Eran, the co-head of the Israeli negotiating team. "We are asking them to have the vision of the US to recognise the political and economic risks we are taking for peace and to allow us to be more bold in future talks and economic arrangements with Arab neighbours."

Israeli frustration at EU obstruction led Mr Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister, to warn recently that unless the EU showed more flexibility in trade negotiations, Israel would consider switching some of its public procurement away from the EU and flexing its "tremendous purchasing power". Israel's public procurement programme is worth $6bn a year, a significant part of which goes to buy goods and services from EU states.

Officials also said the government could consider giving incentives to the private sector to import from non-EU states. Total imports from the 12 EU members and the four associate members last year was more than $11bn.

Mr Rabin is known to be particularly angry and impatient about the EU's opposition to Israel's demands. Other Foreign Ministry officials play down the row and the threats and say a favourable agreement will be concluded.

"We are merely looking for a free opportunity for our exports into the backyard of our economy and with our natural ally," Mr Uri Savir, foreign ministry director general said yesterday.

"Jacques Delors spoke about Israel's special place in Europe and I believe, despite the problems, Israel is more pro-Europe and Europe is more pro-Israel than ever before."

Israel says new EU agreements with Eastern Europe and Maghreb states, and changes in Israeli production have eroded the concessions of the existing 1975 agreement or made them obsolete.

Jerusalem is seeking concessions in five major areas research and development; flour exports; citrus fruits competition for EU public procurement tenders in communications; and a revision of the rules of origin to expand Israeli high-tech and textile exports into the EU market.

Mr Eran says the greatest disappointment is in research and development where Israel is seeking to participate in the EU's "Fourth Programme". The Commission originally recommended Israel be granted "Full Association" of the programme but the move has been blocked by France, Britain, Belgium and Ireland.

Israel says it deserves entry to the programme because it invests 3 per cent of GDP a year in research and development. It is also prepared to pay the full entry fees of $25m-$30m [million] a year and sign all necessary treaties to protect intellectual property.

In the flour sector Israel is seeking an increase in its preferential quota of exports from 19,000 tonnes to 30,000 tonnes a year. In agriculture it wants an improvement in the trade of fresh and processed products, a shift in existing quotas to new products not covered by the 1975 agreement.

Israel would also like a relaxation in the EU rules of origin and an agreement on a mutual recognition of standards, tests and certificates to allow greater access of Israeli textiles and high- tech products. Israel wants its companies to be able to compete for public procurement contracts in the communications sector and says the EU's demand for opening all sectors of public procurement to mutual competition would worsen its trade deficit.

Trade Surplus With Japan Reaches $26 Million

TA0808101994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 94 p 8

[Text] Israel had a $26-million trade surplus with Japan during the first half of the year, the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday.

Israel usually has a trade deficit with Japan. Last year, Israel's trade gap with Japan totaled $278.7m., as imports reached $1.05 billion and exports $769m.

Officers Promoted to Major General, Assume Posts

TA0708110094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 94 p 18

[Report by Arye Kiesel]

[Excerpts] Major General Ze'ev Livne will be the next commander of the Ground Forces Command and will replace 'Imanu'el Saqal who is retiring from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Last Friday [5 August], Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, approved the chief of staff's recommendation in this regard. Livne's previous post, commander of the Home Front Command, will be manned by Brigadier General Shmu'el Arad (today head of the General Staff Operations Department) who will be promoted to Major General. [passage omitted]

Next Friday, Brigadier General Yitzhaq Brick will assume the post of commander of the National Security College. He will be promoted to Major General, and will

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be replacing Maj. Gen. Yosi Ben-Hanan who retires from the Army after 30 years of service. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Problems Faced by Likud's Meridor

TA0708171694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Amnon Dankner: "Meridor Will Not Help"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres has recently said that on the eve of the 1981 elections he managed to show the Labor Party distinctness vis-a-vis the Likud when, speaking on behalf of his party, he expressed sharp opposition to the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor which Menahem Begin had ordered. Those of us with short memories might have believed that, thanks to its distinct stands, Peres' party defeated the Likud. The election results, however, were just the opposite. Labor was severely defeated because of, among other things, its protest of the bombing, which the majority of the public perceived as a mighty deed that saved Israel.

This piece of Peres' mind is interesting because it clearly points to the kinds of dilemmas the Likud is currently facing: What can an opposition party do against a ruling party which produces great and resounding achievements in peacemaking? From the moment al-Sadat landed here, Labor had to grit its teeth and stand on Menahem Begin's side knowing that in doing so it was bolstering the rule of a party with which it would have to compete in the coming elections. The other alternative it had seemed much worse: It could stand up against the agreement, or abstain in the Knesset vote on it—as some of the party's rural reactionaries, such as Yig'al Alon, urged it to do, shocked by the evacuation of the Sinai and Rafah settlements.

It is hard for an opposition party to run against a ruling party the deeds of which it, eventually, accepts. An opposition is always seeking some aggressive distinction through which it could point its arrows at the government. Sometimes, however, as Peres realized in 1981, the price might prove to be very high.

The Likud cannot endorse Yitzhaq Rabin's policy in its entirety. At the same time, if it aggressively stands up against it—as Yitzhaq Shamir recommends—and promises to nullify all the agreements and reconquer Gaza and Jericho, it will become the laughing stock of the 1996 elections. After all, much to the Likud's surprise, the nation impressively and massively supports Rabin's peace policy. The Israeli public is pleased: Yasir 'Arafat was changed from a threatening demon to something on the order of a local council head who sends his wife to sweep the Gaza sands and moans over the lack of development funds; King Husayn has captured the hearts of the Israeli public; al-Asad is warming up to charm the Israelis; terrorism is still active, although weakened, but acts of terror that used to feature in giant newspaper headlines have been cast aside because the national agenda today no longer sees terror as more that what it really is—a painful nuisance that cannot pose a threat to Israel's existence or dictate policies.

The devaluation in the status of terrorism as a major component of our being was followed by a decline in the shares of Binyamin Netanyahu who built his career on terrorism. The Likud is now seriously talking about and acting to depose him and elect Dan Meridor to replace him. Indeed, Meridor is the dream candidate of any election campaign manager: He is handsome, nice, wise, decent, trustworthy, and magnificently eloquent. The problem is that—facing Yitzhaq Rabin—Meridor, like Netanyahu, will have to answer the following question: What do you have to sell, other than your personality? The honest answer must be: Not much. That is, Meridor, like other members of his movement, may honestly believe in his movement's traditional path, but he must know that there are not enough buyers for this merchandise.

The main story in the time left until the elections—and it may be shorter than the time stipulated by law—will be the Likud debate over what it has to offer to the public: An extremist distinction that would put off many voters, or a half-hearted acceptance of the situation—which is also a difficult banner to rally around. It should also be remembered that, besides losing votes to center parties, the Likud might lose votes to the extreme right. The votes it may gain by preventing a desertion toward Labor by adopting a realistic approach may be lost in desertion to Tzomet and its likes.

The harsh debate the Likud Knesset faction held last week over how it should vote on the Washington Declaration is an indication of the size of the rift expected when the political temperature starts rising in anticipation of the elections. The Likud is gradually losing its seat at the table of the national agenda, and is constantly losing the psychological ground in which it used to plant the seeds of its ideology: The once-typical Israeli psychology of xenophobia and paranoia that used to view any arrangement offer as a deceitful maneuver leading to the elimination of Israel is slowly changing with the circumstances.

The Israeli people have grown calmer, more open, and willing to accept the idea that there is a certain regional acceptance of our presence here. Dealing with these changes requires great flexibility, which the Likud and its leaders have not been graced with. Meridor included, the Likud leaders deal with the political reality in a way reminiscent of the way Qeysar, Haberfeld, and other Histadrut functionaries used to deal with the social reality. Meridor may be the gracious dolphin among whales, but even this dolphin is not equipped with a pair of feet that could gain him a firm stand on the grounds of reality.

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MK Magen Promoting Meridor as Likud Leader

TA0508180394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 5 Aug 94 pp 12, 13

[Article by Shalom Yerushalmi: "In Exactly One Year, in August 1995, Netanyahu Will Be Replaced By Meridor"]

[Text] If we are to go by the plan being formulated by David Magen and his colleagues, then in exactly one year, in August 1995, the Likud will have a new leader. His name is Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor. The worn and frazzled Binyamin Netanyahu, who, according to Magen, failed in his attempt to unite the party and transform it into a real alternative to the government, will vacate his place to the man who has a real chance of defeating Yitzhaq Rabin. Henceforth, the effective slogan "government now" (which got him to the Likud's leadership in February 1993) will be used against in Meridor's campaign. It is now obvious that Netanyahu does not stand a chance of scoring 50 percent of the vote in direct elections to the premiership. Only Meridor will keep us out of another term in the opposition, at the end of which the Likud might find itself devoid of any territories to fight over.

Magen's plan to replace Netanyahu is comprehensive and precise. It is based on suitable organization and public relations, and is being disclosed here for the first time. In the year since his return to full political activity (after an absence of a few months due to personal and other reasons), Magen has been meticulously analyzing the findings of the census carried out by the Likud on the eve of the primaries. Magen, the chairman of the Likud's supreme membership committee, became a one-man commission of inquiry. He found out that the Likud had 214,000 members on the eve of the primaries, whereas only 165,000 members are listed today in the books at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv's Metzudat Ze'ev. Last week, in a meeting of the Likud Secretariat's subcommittee, Magen astonished his audience when he hinted at colossal improprieties in the primaries and actually questioned the whole process. "On the eve of the primaries, somebody added 50,000 fictitious members to the Likud," Magen said. "The census was conducted by vote-riggers. Current lists include names of people who were active in the last municipal and Histadrut election campaigns and who championed anti- Likud ideas."

Thousands of members, some of them anonymous, voted for Netanyahu, who left his three contenders (David Levi, Beni Begin, and Moshe Qatzav) in the dust. Voter registration and busing to the ballot stations merit a probe, and so do the sources of Netanyahu's funds. However, as far as Magen is concerned, the main point is that the institutions elected in the primaries do not reflect the real situation in the Likud. The disproportion between the number of members in the census and the number of people active in the party institutions could be seen in the last two or three Likud Central Committee meetings. Of its 3,000 members, only a few hundred turned up for the meetings, "which turned the Likud into a joke," as Magen and his colleagues put it.

MK Magen wants to summon a party convention in March 1995 to decide on the reelection of all the party institutions. What this pompous wording really means is that the convention would decide to hold new primaries which would lead to the election of a new leader, Chairman Meridor. According to the new draconian constitution instituted by Netanyahu, Magen and his colleagues need the consent of 75 percent of the delegates to summon a convention. Earlier this week I asked him: "Do you have it?"

[Magen] Not yet.

[Yerushalmi] Will you get it?

[Magen] It is a very high target. I believe that suitable action and constructive lobbying will persuade delegates of the need to effect changes.

[Yerushalmi] Who are your men? Who do you work with?

[Magen] We are a small group of people, and I will not expose them. We have a solid basis to work intensively with the delegates. [end Magen]

When Magen talks about a solid group of people he apparently means key activists in the Likud's largest branches who have been secretly meeting with him in recent months to formulate a timetable for a shift in the party. Magen is sure that most Likud MK's favor replacing Netanyahu with Meridor, but the only man who currently extends him his semi-overt logistical assistance is MK Avraham Herschson. The latter, one of the leaders of the Likud's labor federation, backed Beni Begin in the primaries. He is thought to have strong influence in the party's Tel Aviv branch, and his organizational skills date back to the time 30 years ago when he was the impresario of a well-known trio of comedians.

His man in Haifa is Attorney Avi Goldhammer, but Magen and his colleagues are convinced that all faction leaders in this divided branch will ultimately back them. There is a big pro-Meridor group in the Jerusalem branch, which includes activists who voted for Begin in the primaries and later backed Ehud Olmert in the municipal elections. Another key member in this group is Shlomi Gravetz, chairman of the Jewish Agency's youth department and a good friend of Dan and his brother, Salay Meridor. In recent meetings with his colleagues, Magen has been talking about the "astounding response" of other branch chiefs. "I met the leaders of the Holon branch at the end of July," Magen recounted. "They told me: Find somebody like Dan Meridor who can get all the Likud leaders to stand in one line to sing the national anthem. That is all we need."

However, Magen hopes to get the most significant assistance from the flanks. MK David Levi, Netanyahu's nemesis, commands 750 delegates, and Magen hopes to

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enlist their support for summoning a convention and calling new elections. Magen secretly met with Levi in recent weeks, and once or twice they had long talks (the two were never close friends). The former foreign minister, a smart and levelheaded man, listened, nodded, but did not commit himself.

Magen is also counting on MK Ari'el Sharon (who announced that he would run for the premiership), whose shaky standing in the party could only benefit from chaos in the Likud. As far as is known, Sharon has not met Magen, but his men (those who did not defect to Netanyahu's camp) keep him in the picture.

Lobbying and persuasion are the most important factors, and Magen and his colleagues will devote most of their time in the coming months to these endeavors. Delegates will be told that the Likud, which is experiencing ideological confusion as a result of the new political reality, needs an organizational and ideological overhaul. The planned convention (Magen calls it "a refreshing convention") is slated to decide on the election of new rather than fictitious institutions and discuss the amendment of the party platform. The main question on the agenda of such a convention would be: Should the Likud embrace the "Gaza and Jericho First" plan, as MK Moshe Qatzav proposes, or should it support the version put forward by Yitzhaq Shamir earlier this week, namely: "The Likud will rise to power, and will first conquer Gaza and then Jericho."

The main and constant message is the need to find a candidate who would best Rabin. Magen believes that most delegates have still not digested the fact that the elections in 1996 will be direct and that Netanyahu will not be able to defeat Labor's candidate. Netanyahu failed to lead the opposition and to unite the Likud leaders, he linked up with the extreme right wing, strayed from the mainstream, and came up with an unappealing alternative peace plan. Magen's men are not even prepared to give Netanyahu credit for rehabilitating the party. And, in the background will hover those organizational improprieties which Magen is currently documenting which installed Netanyahu in the leadership. "What we need now is a winner," Magen said earlier this week. "I do not blame anybody, but the candidate must command unanimity. Our weakest point is the rift in the leadership. If this rift is not healed or if it gets wider, we will never get to the government."

[Yerushalmi] Dan Meridor has said on several occasions that he plays no part in your initiative.

[Magen] I did not ask him to play a part. I only hope that if a decision is made to hold a new convention, people like Meridor will not be deterred from running for the job. [end Magen]

Meridor is a product that it is easy to sell. Whenever he meets delegates, Magen tells them that Meridor is Rabin's and Labor's true nightmare; he tells them that Rabin gets uptight about Meridor's oppositionist arguments and that he had the Likud's shy "prince" in mind when he lashed out at "all those bleeding-heart lawyers." A few weeks ago several Likud MK's had a meeting with Labor's hawks at MK Gedalya Gal's home in Kefar Vitkin. Meridor was also there. Villagers passing by, typical old-time faithful Laborites, fearfully pointed at Meridor and told him: "You are the only one who can bring us down."

Delegates have in recent weeks been bombarded with public opinion polls. Magen and his men apparently hired a firm which conducted an initial poll "whose findings astonished us," as one member of the dethronement headquarters in-the-making said. Their working assumption is that future polls will have an effect on the eve of the convention. Magen is not discouraged by polls published by the major newspapers, whereby Meridor gets 9 percent or less of the vote. He is convinced that these findings only flatter Meridor, who has not even presented his candidacy. Incidentally, Magen admitted this week that "this battle involves considerable expenses," hinted at the sources of the money but would not elaborate. Nevertheless, one may safely assume that there is a correlation between some of Beni Begin's contributors in the primaries and those who will help out Meridor if he indeed decides to challenge Netanyahu.

This story would not have made the headlines had David Magen not been a methodical and thorough man who knows the Likud inside out and who has to date accomplished some impressive feats, both personal and in the party. Forty-eight-year-old Magen was the mayor of Qiryat Gat for 10 years, has been an outstanding MK for 13 years, was the minister of economics and planning in the last Shamir government (for a while he was also in charge of the labor and social welfare portfolio), and has hardly sustained any political failures. In internal Likud elections he usually scored one of the highest places, perhaps because of his image as a go-getter and a man of the people, a combination of proven electoral value.

Magen is also credited with the reversal scored by the Likud in the municipal elections in February 1989. He was then chairman of the election campaign headquarters and consequently gained a great deal of respect. After the Likud's failure in the last Knesset elections, Magen reduced his parliamentary activities following a publicized affair (which has meanwhile ended) with his assistant and became a partner in several business ventures. About two months ago he was appointed chairman of the Knesset Audit Committee, according to a prearranged rotation agreement he signed with MK Dan Tikhon. His colleagues believe that this official position will avail moral validity to the campaign he has been waging in the Likud. "If he can audit the country, he can very well audit the party and be believed," they say.

At the same time, Netanyahu is not the first Likud leader Magen has had trouble with. When he was part of Sharon's camp in the early 1980's he fought with David

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Levi. In the notorious Likud convention of March 1986 Magen announced that "Yitzhaq Shamir's career is over." Shamir proceeded to have an impressive career as prime minister in the next six years, and stubbornly curbed Magen's promotion. Magen was forced to see his peers—Meridor, Roni Milo, and Ehud Olmert—bypass him and land senior ministerial positions. Only in February 1990, when Sharon quit his job as industry and trade minister, Shamir acceded to appoint Magen as a minister, initially without portfolio.

Magen had his first head-on collision with Netanyahu in the Likud's internal elections in July 1988. The two competed for the fifth place in the first septet. Netanyahu, then at the peak of his prestige, won with a majority of only four votes. Five years later, after the last municipal elections in November 1993, Netanyahu proposed to Magen to coordinate the Likud's opposition to the Oslo agreements. Magen readily accepted, until he realized that Netanyahu's administrative men were blocking his budget. At that point he stalked out of his office at Metzudat Ze'ev. Netanyahu's associates, who totally dismiss his plan for a shift of power, contended earlier this week that Magen proposed to head the campaign headquarters of the Likud's candidate for the premiership in the next elections. Magen denies this. At the end of May, when Netanyahu formed his shadow cabinet and named himself the prime minister, Magen called it "a tasteless joke." Many agreed with him.

A few months ago, when the first reports leaked out about people organizing to promote Meridor, Netanyahu summoned Magen to his office in the Knesset. "What have you got against me?" Netanyahu asked him. "You are a nice guy, but you are not suitable," Magen replied. This week I asked Magen whether he had not set out on a quixotic fight which will do him no good, and whether he really thinks that he will succeed in turning around the delegates, most of whom support Netanyahu. "I am at peace with what I am doing," Magen told me, "and nobody will convince me that I am not right."

[Yerushalmi] Are you not worried about Netanyahu's vengefulness?

[Magen] All I can say is that I am aware of the harm that might be caused to me.

[Yerushalmi] And yet you continue to fight.

[Magen] I do.

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King 'Extremely Satisfied' With Rabin Talks

JN0808204294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Report by radio correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid in Elat, from "With the Events" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concluded their day-long visit to al-'Aqabah this evening. They were the guests of King Husayn. King Husayn, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Warren Christopher returned from the brief sea trip in the Gulf of Aqaba approximately two hours ago. The trip was made aboard the Royal Yacht.

We managed to speak to King Husayn when he saw Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin off at al-'Aqabah Airport.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayid] Your majesty the king: Now that you have met with Rabin, how do you feel?

[Husayn] Pardon me?

[Abu-Zayid] Now that you have met with Rabin, how do you feel?

[Husayn] I am extremely satisfied with the meeting, with all the results, and also with this good spirit one senses here in beloved Jordan, the spirit demonstrated by the overwhelming majority of the kinsfolk and brothers, as well as the real desire for comprehensive and just peace we sense in Israel, the peace that will be enjoyed by future generations.

[Abu-Zavid] When will you visit Israel?

[Husayn] Soon, God willing. [end recording]

Minister Suggests Iraq Join Peace Process

JN0708081594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 07 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said Saturday [6 August] Iraq could be part of the Middle East peace process by joining the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli negotiations but it was up to Israel and Iraq to decide the issue.

"I thing Iraq can play an important role, particularly that it was Israel which has been referring to Iraq in the context of regional security," Dr. al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES. "Every time the issue of security comes up Israel mentions Iraq."

It appeared to be a reference to Israel's assertions that Iraq and Iran were also developing nuclear weapons while addressing the question of its own nuclear arsenal.

Asked whether Jordan would play any role in bringing Iraq into the Arab-Israeli peace process, Dr. al-'Anani said: "There cannot be an answer to that question purely on its merits. It is a complex question."

"However, we should address the question to Israel if they want Iraq to be involved in the multilateral negotiations on issues like security," Dr. al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES.

Dr. al-Anani was also interviewed by Israel Radio on a possible role for Iraq in the peace process. The minister gave a similar comment and added:

"There are also issues like economic cooperation and water. However, we'll have to wait and see if Iraq will take such a decision."

Iraq meanwhile denied an Israeli newspaper report that it had secretly contacted Israel with a view to using the Jewish state as a conduit to Washington.

Israel's YEDI'OT AHARONOT daily said Friday that an Iraqi defence official had met with Israeli officials in Europe last month and proposed a package involving Baghdad's dropping of all territorial claims vis-a-vis Kuwait and cooperating in the peace process in return for an end to the international sactions against Iraq.

"The report is fabricated, groundless and untrue," said a statement issued by the Iraqi embassy in Amman. "There was no such meeting, whether a month ago or anytime else."

According to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT report, which did not identify any of the officials involved, Iraq proposed that Baghdad would publicly declare that it had no territorial claims in Kuwait and accept the Arab-Israeli peace process in return for Washington's agreement to end the four-year-old international sanctions.

The report also said that Iraq was willing to welcome the Jordanian-Israeli peace moves, sell oil to Israel and open mutual diplomatic interest offices.

It was not the first time the Israeli media has reported alleged secret contacts between Iraq and Israel after the Gulf war, during which Iraq fired nearly 40 Scud missiles at the Jewish state.

However, the Iraqi government has consistently denied such reports, In one instance after carrying an official denial, an Iraqi state-controlled paper said last year the Baghdad government might demand billions of dollars in reparations from Israel for the destruction of its Osirak nuclear reactor. The reactor was demolished in an Israeli air raid in 1981.

Observers here did not rule out the possibility that Iraqi-Israeli contacts could in fact have taken place, but they also suggested that the Israeli reports could be a ruse to arouse Iraqi interest in contacting the Jewish state.

"After all, Israel is the closest ally of the United States, and it is presumable that Israel could be suggesting itself as a go-between for Baghdad and Washington," said a seasoned observer.

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"For all practical purposes, Israel cannot say that peace has been established in the Middle East until Iraq joins the process," added the observer. "What better way to suggest itself a benefactor to Baghdad in return for ending the state of war between Iraq and Israel?"

Diplomatic sources said there had been a considerable wave of suggestions that Iraqi-Israeli contacts were taking place but none that could be pinned down in definite terms.

"Indeed, Iraq is definitely interested in exploring all possibilities in its efforts to end the sanctions," said a diplomat. But, added the diplomat, "it is unlikely that Baghdad would acknowledge such contacts, if there were any, at a time when it is not even clearly known whether Israel could or would serve a useful purpose."

Diplomats also note that there is a considerable number of Jews of Iraqi origin settled down in Israel who could act as a conduit for behind-the-scene contacts with no prior commitment from either governments.

According to reports from Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is maintaining a flexible position on Iraq, saying Israeli-Iraqi contacts depended on Washington's consent.

Paper: U.S. Must Participate in Economic Projects

JN0908095394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Peace Crossing]

[Text] The positive results of the intensive political activities His Majesty King Husayn led in al-'Aqabah yesterday stand as another step on the road to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region with a determination that confirms the credibility and goodwill of the two sides toward realizing the dream and ensuring the future of the next generation.

The opening of the tourist crossing between al-'Aqabah and Elat has truly been a historic event and the first practical step toward translating the Washington Declaration on the ground. Undoubtedly, this step will have positive results in terms of the feelings of the peoples in the two countries and the peoples of other nationalities who will use it and who will benefit from the results of real peace, for which the peoples of the region have been yearning.

A careful reading of His Majesty King Husayn's speech at the joint news conference with Rabin and Christopher, and the speech of His Highness Prince Hasan, and the ideas and vision of these speeches, emphasize to observers Jordan's awareness and determination to realize peace that restores rights to their owners and brings life back to normal among peoples of the region. As King Husayn said, we in Jordan feel today that we are friends and partners moving with determination, vision, and commitment toward building the foundations for comprehensive peace in this region.

Yesterday all eyes looked with real interest and eagerness toward what was taking place in al-'Aqabah because "peace has not been tested in the past years" as His Majesty King Husayn said, but the peoples of the region have suffered the bitterness and tragedies of war, therefore, they are eager to cross to the stage of the aspired peace.

One of the central issues related to peace is the need for this peace be reflected in the people's daily life in a manner that absorbs their economic problems and opens the way for progress, welfare, and creative coexistence.

In his speech yesterday, His Highness Prince Hasan emphasized this aspect when he said that the challenges of peace require even greater commitment, efforts, and work to change the slogan of peace into facts of prosperity and progress on the ground, because peace should unleash the creative capabilities and change the desert into a story of success that the generations will remember.

To reach such a result is not the responsibility of Jordan and Israel alone, but it is the responsibility of the international community, especially the United States, the sponsor of the peace process. We are aware that the United States has begun practical steps toward writing off Jordan's debt and meeting its military needs following His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to Washington. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need for U.S. participation in setting up development projects that contribute to ending the people's suffering, and eliminating economic disparity and social injustice in the region.

As much as we are optimistic about the future, we continue to remember that the road to the aspired peace is still long and requires strong will and patience by all concerned parties. Perhaps the best expression of this fact was what His Majesty King Husayn said in the news conference yesterday—that we must face all problems and deal with them properly to make sure that something will come of all these words to change the region into what it should be.

'Peace for All' Requires Movement From Israel

JN0808121494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug p 6

[Editorial: "Peace For All"]

[Text] Less than two weeks after the signing of the Washington Declaration, Jordan and Israel are taking serious steps to implement agreements reached in the historic document. Telephone lines between the two countries are now operational, talks over opening Jordanian and Israeli airspace to civilian airlines seem to have

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reached an advanced stage and a crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat for third country nationals will be inaugurated today.

For some, the speed with which Jordan and Israel are moving towards reaching peace might seem a bit too overwhelming. Considering the decades of conflict between the two states, it is natural that some people feel this way about the new chapter that the Kingdom and Israel are opening. But it is also natural that the two states waste no time in solving all their conflicts for the common purpose of bringing about peace and stability to their region and peoples. In that sense, the speed is at least justified, at most necessary.

And by any serious standard, the road towards peace is still long and thorny.

That Jordan wants peace is a foregone conclusion. But so is the fact that the peace it seeks is a just, lasting and comprehensive one that can ensure to all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict their rights to their lands, water, security and sovereignty over their land and future.

That leaves the ball in the Israeli court, for it is the aggressor which is occupying Jordanian land and usurping Arab rights. Moreover, Israel is the party which has wasted the so many chances for peace offered by Arab countries over the years of conflict.

The talks over land and water rights that Jordan and Israel will resume tomorrow are a test ground for Israel's intentions. Jordan is entering the talks to secure its rights. The agenda it signed with the Jewish state last year is the yardstick against which Jordan will conduct the negotiations. Once, and not before, the issues on the agenda have been resolved, a peace treaty will be a subject of discussion.

Israel has to understand that and proceed with its talks accordingly. It should not be disillusioned to believe that the peace Jordan is pursuing is peace at any price.

But it will be naive to expect Israel to concede to the Kingdom's demands so willingly. History speaks against such an expectation. Israel has always tried to get away with everything. It will try that again in its coming talks with Jordan. Jordanian negotiators are aware of that and hence are their continued assertions that the negotiations are going to be difficult and long.

The crossing point that will open today in the south is a symbolic gesture of what peace could bring. It should therefore work as an incentive to the Israelis to help put relations in the region on the right track. Only third country nationals will be able to use the new crossing point. The objective is to have the borders open first and for all the people of the area, those who have paid dearly for the abnormal state of affairs that prevailed in the Middle East for so long. That could be a long way from happening. But it is not impossible to achieve if Israel works towards real and genuine peace.

That would entail movement on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The objective is clear: peace for all. The way to achieve it is also clear: An Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian land end to all forms of Israeli aggression against Arabs, their rights and their resources.

Opposition Parties Reiterate Position on Peace

JN0808123094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 94 P 12

[By JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Opposition parties on Sunday [7 August] reiterated their claim that the majority of the Jordanian people are against the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks and urged the government to "return to the people" to find out where they stand on what they called an issue of crucial implications to the nation and its future.

"The current talks will transfer Jordan from a party to a large conflict with the Zionist enemy to a country at peace with it. This is a crucial issue which requires deep study and the engagement of the people in a thorough dialogue," eight political parties said in a letter to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

His Majesty King Husayn said last week he was considering conducting a plebiscite on the peace talks but many lawmakers said such a step was not needed in light of support of the majority of deputies to the peace talks.

Accusing the government of ignoring the will of the people and their political parties and institutions, which "reflect the public opinion" in the Kingdom, the opposition parties also demanded that the government refer its recent moves in the peace talks to Parliament.

In the letter, which was sent one day before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was making his first public visit to the Kingdom, the opposition parties criticised the government for conducting the talks without the approval of Parliament. The parties made this criticism even though the Constitution grants the executive branch the right to negotiate treaties without seeking the approval of the legislature.

The parties belittled the significance of the expression of support to the talks by the majority of members of the Lower House, saying the "approval of some deputies" was expressed outside "the parliamentary framework."

Fifty-one out of the 80 members of the House said in letters to King Husayn last week that they supported his policies on the peace talks in what was seen as a clear and strong parliamentary mandate to the government to proceed with its policies on the peace talks.

Observers also said the letters discredit the opposition's claims that they represent the majority of Jordanians when they reject the new developments in the peace process.

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The opposition eight also questioned the government's commitment to the democratic process and accused it of manipulating the official media to show that the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the peace talks.

Accusing the government of "conceding all of Palestine to the enemy and dropping Jerusalem as a political issue," among other "concessions" to Israel, the eight political parties, which have taken the lead in opposing the talks, claimed that the Jordanian people will reject any agreements the talks would lead to.

The parties, which included Islamists, leftists and pan-Arabist parties, demanded that the government withdraw from the talks and reverse all the steps it has taken towards the normalisation of relations with Israel because they "violate Jordanian laws."

Despite their claim to have the support of the majority of the people in their stand, the opposition parties have thus far failed to demonstrate any proof to their claim.

Since the breakthrough in the Jordanian-Israeli talks was made July 18 when the two countries held their first public meeting in the area, the opposition has been confined to the issuance of statements that claim most of Jordanians are opposed to the talks.

The opposition eight have declared a day of national mourning July 25 when King Husayn signed the Washington Declaration with Mr. Rabin, but few people seemed to have taken up the call and life went as normal in the Kingdom.

Supporters of the peace process cited normalcy of life in the Kingdom as a proof that the majority of Jordanians are behind the peace talks.

Opposition Parties Assail Moves Toward Peace

JN0908082094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Aug 94 p 12

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Opposition parties on Monday urged Jordanians to employ all available resources to abort what they called "a dangerous conspiracy which aims at normalising relations with the enemy...endangering the sovereignty and independence of the state."

In a statement issued to protest the opening of a crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat, eight opposition parties condemned the "unjustified eagerness and racing towards normalisation with the Zionist enemy."

The opposition eight, which include the Islamic Action Front (IAF), and leftists and Pan-Arabist parties, claimed that the steps that Jordan and Israel took in the past days go beyond what a separate peace treaty with Israel would have led to despite the government's assurances that no such treaty had been reached.

"What happened in Wadi al-'Arabah and what the people watched on television: The opening of the new crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat...the hugging and handshakes between generals and retired officers from both (countries)...(and) equating our martyrs with their killed ones...reflect a determination to destroy what is left of the feeling among our people that (the Israelis) are out enemies," the parties said in the statement.

What is regrettable, they said, is that the government is moving ahead in implementing agreements it reached with Israel in secret and open negotiations "in a race with time before many awake from the shock of all that has happened."

Rejecting all the steps taken by the government towards "normalisation," the opposition parties protested "welcoming the enemies and their leaders on our land before we regain our usurped rights in our land and holy places."

The statement was issued one day after representatives of the opposition met with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who said Jordan was making substantial progress to regain its rights in land and water in its talks with Israel.

Dr. al-Majali said the government respects the viewpoint of the parties but stressed the need to abide by the law and the Constitution in expressing political views.

The opposition eight had earlier demanded that the government "return to the people" to find out where they stand on the peace talks with Israel, claiming that the majority of Jordanians are opposed to the new developments in the negotiations with the Jewish state. They also accused the government of ignoring public opinion, which they said rejects the peace talks by a majority.

Supporters of the peace process, however, tossed away the opposition claim that most Jordanians are against the peace talks. They cited the normalcy of life in the Kingdom during the talks and the expression of support for the negotiations by the majority of members of the Lower House of Parliament as a proof that the opposition's claim to representation of the majority of Jordanians is groundless.

The opposition to the talks has thus far been mainly expressed through statements issued by the opposition eight.

The IAF, which leads the opposition, has pledged to resist the talks through legal and constitutional means and according to a programme its leadership has agreed on.

Some IAF deputies, however, were recently questioned by the prosecutor general for "violating the law" in Friday sermons. The case ended after the IAF met with government officials and agreed to restrict its opposition to the talks to "constitutional ways."

A sit-in in downtown Amman on July 25, when His Majesty King Husayn met Israeli Prime Minister

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Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington, was the only step taken by the opposition parties to demonstrate public rejection of the talks. But the sit-in was attended by about 200 people and lasted for two hours.

IAF sources said that the governor of Amman rejected a request to organise a rally in opposition of the talks on Aug. 12.

Parties Condemn Normalization With Israel

JN0808205494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian parties, as well as the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Resisting Submission and Normalization, issued a press statement today condemning the inauguration of the border crossing between al-'Aqabah and Umm Rashrash [Elat], saying:

What has taken place in Wadi al-'Arabah, the inauguration of the new border crossing between al-'Aqabah and Elat, watched by citizens, and the handshakes and hugging between retired generals and officers from both sides are further moves aimed at destroying the citizens' determination that they [the Israelis] are our enemies, and usurpers of our territories.

The statement added: While denouncing this unwarranted decline, and the accelerating moves toward normalization with the Zionist enemy, the signatories call upon our people's masses to oppose this decline, to demonstrate vigilance, and to oppose the normalization moves. We also oppose this entry by the enemy, as well as the hospitality accorded to its leaders in our homes and on our territory before our usurped rights to territory and holy shrines in Jordan, Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon are restored.

The statement went on to say: What has taken place thus far constitutes a serious relinquishment of the Islamic, national, and pan-Arab constants. Hence, we urge all forces and figures to oppose this by all means to thwart this dangerous conspiracy.

Israel Said Avoiding Lebanon Track

JN0708105294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Naivety or Short Sight?"]

[Text] The flare-up in South Lebanon over the weekend as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a fresh shuttle of the Middle East in pursuit of peace should be reminder of the state of affairs in the region. There cannot be any denial of the reality that it is the very absence of any progress in the Syrian-Israeli track of peace negotiations, and, by extension, the Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations, that is behind the violence that we witness in South Lebanon. It is inconceivable too that the Israelis, particularly those living near the borders with Lebanon, are happy with the status quo when the threat of violence and Katyusha attacks is ever present.

So what do we have here? Who is to be blamed for the escalation in tension and eruption of violence in South Lebanon that threatens to engage Mr. Christopher in efforts to defuse the situation rather than dedicating himself to advancing the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations during his latest shuttle?

No doubt, the ball falls back in the Israeli court. Instead of accepting the Lebanese government's offer to undertake immediate security measures to ensure stability along the border with Israel if the Jewish state withdrew from the so-called "security zone," Israeli leaders are engaging Beirut in a media exercise over the presence of Syrian and Iranian forces in Lebanon and the continued resistance put up by Lebanese and Palestinian fighters there.

It is no secret that there cannot be any advance in the Lebanese-Israeli track of talks unless there is similar movement in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. But, as efforts continue in a bid to break the Syrian-Israeli logjam, little attention appears to be given to any measures to defuse the tension in South Lebanon.

It should be more than clear to Israel by now that unless it shows concrete signs of withdrawing from the "security zone," the resistance attacks would continue regardless of what is happening in the peace negotiations. The Lebanese have seen enough violence to last them a lifetime, and it is naive to think that they would sit back and await a peace settlement to materialise at the convenience of Israel on its own terms as it is seeking today.

It is not enough that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin affirmed in public that his country does not covet "a single inch" of Lebanese territory or a "single cubic metre" of Lebanese water; those claims should be followed up with realistic, visible signs of Israel's intentions to evacuate its neighbour's territory.

The Israelis appear not to have taken seriously a series of recent statements by Lebanese President Elias Hirawi on Lebanon's vision of security arrangements. Unlikely as it may be, the Israelis seem not to have understood that what President Hirawi was suggesting was a bilateral arrangement that could be conducive to bringing about a peace settlement between Lebanon and Israel as and when Syria and Israel are ready to enter a similar arrangement. In the meantime, Mr. Hirawi is offering to undertake the responsibility of protecting the border region.

Wasn't the voice loud enough for the Israelis? Or are they still politically short-sighted not to realise that President Hirawi's offer could be a lifesaver that could avert the kind of tension and violence gripping South Lebanon

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today when the need of the day is a very concerted effort to break the deadlock in the negotiations?

'High-Level' PLO Team Expected Soon

JN0908080094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Aug 94 p 12

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials returned to Jericho on Monday [8 August] after preparing for the visit of a high-level team to Jordan in the next 10 days for talks on Jerusalem and other outstanding issues related to economy and security, Palestinian sources said.

They said the aim of the visit by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, "minister" of information in the Palestinian self-rule territories of Gaza and Jericho, and Faysal al-Husayni, also a member of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), was to pave the way for a visit of a PLO team at "ministerial level" to discuss the issues.

"The delegation discussed arrangements for the visit, which should take place in the next 10 days," a Palestinian source told the JORDAN TIMES. According to the source, the PLO delegation will also discuss "economic and security issues"—a reference to the outstanding economic cooperation agreement which PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declined to ratify.

No Jordanian comment was immediately available.

'Umar Khatib, the acting chief of the PLO mission here, confirmed in comments carried by the AP that Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mr. al-Husayni also discussed economic and security cooperation with Mr. al-Hasan.

The PLO delegation's visit came against the backdrop of a controversy sparked by the PLO over Israel's acknowledgement of Jordan's historic role as guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The Israeli acknowledgement came in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on July 25.

Jordan has repeatedly said since then that the acknowledgement did not have any bearing on the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem and that it was up to the Palestinians and Israel to negotiate and finalise the political status of the city.

Despite the repeated Jordanian assurances that the Kingdom's religious role in the Holy City did not have any political bearings, the PLO has lodged protests with Israel, the United States, a co-sponsor of the peace process, the United Nations and the Arab League.

Mr. 'Arafat, who is arguing that the Israeli move undermined the PLO's political quest, also vented his anger by banning a Jordanian-leaning newspaper, AL-NAHAR, from the self-rule areas.

The PLO chairman also accused Mr. Rabin of violating the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement and demanded immediate negotiations on the status of Jerusalem. The autonomy accord puts off discussions on the final status of the Holy City until 1996.

Mr. Rabin rejected Mr. 'Arafat's demand but reiterated his commitment to negotiate the status of Jerusalem as scheduled in the self-rule accord.

In talks with Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mr. al-Husayni on Sunday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan reaffirmed Jordan's stand "over the issue of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the continued Hashemite Jordanian role in exercising religious jurisdiction over them."

According to Palestinian sources, the PLO leadership is divided over the issue: One school of thought acknowledges the validity of the Jordanian argument and would like a quiet approach to the issue in tandem with the Kingdom. Another sees the Israeli move as a subterfuge to undermine the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

"The second school, which is headed by Mr. 'Arafat, believes in making as much noise as possible over the issue," said one Palestinian source. "The first, which includes mostly pro-Jordanians in the self-rule authority, mainly in the middle level, is arguing that a joint approach with Jordan towards the issue will be the most productive."

The dispatch of Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mr. al-Husayni was decided by a meeting of the Palestine National Authority last week. The PLO delegation expected to visit Jordan will include several ministers in the PNA, including Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Yasir 'Amr and Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, as well as al-Tayib 'Abd al-Rahim, the former Palestinian ambassador to Jordan who is now secretary-general of the PNA.

Palestinian People's Party Leader Criticizes PNA

JN0708112594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Secretary General of the Palestine People's PRTY (PPP) Bashir al-Barghuthi has criticised attempts by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to exacerbate difference with Jordan over the issue of Jerusalem and said these differences could be solved in a friendly manner without resorting to the Arab League or any other side.

In a lecture delivered Thursday [4 August] in the West Bank city of Bayt Jala, Mr. al-Barghuthi said he considered these attempts to expand differences as an escape from the "main battle scene" by plotting "a side quarrel because our struggle over Jerusalem is originally with the occupation authorities."

Mr. al-Barghuthi said in his lecture, whose text was faxed to the JORDAN TIMES from Jerusalem, that Jordan has continued to take care of holy places and Islamic Waqf

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since it severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988 in agreement with the Palestinians.

"Thus our duty requires that we should view Jerusalem not only as holy places, but also we should view it as an integral part of the lands occupied in 1967 and lands to which (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 242 applies, which significance is enhanced by its religious status," he said.

Mr. al-Barghuthi also said that objections to the recent trilateral summit of His Majesty King Husayn, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and American President Bill Clinton were baseless.

"Jordan is not a foreign country that we do not care about. Several bonds tie us with it. They (Jordan) had announced since the beginning of the negotiations process that they want to negotiate over their lands in Ghawr Al-Safi and al-Himmah area and to regain their water rights. These goals are about to be achieved and I think it is a shame to accuse people who were honest with themselves because they did not claim they were negotiating to regain Jaffa."

Mr. al-Barghuthi said the Palestinians were living through a new situation, not only because of the Cairo agreement or the return of the Palestinian leadership to the self-rule areas, but also "because the Arab status quo does not offer any substitutes" and we are hostages to this status quo and would be deceiving ourselves if we talk about forgetting about the Cairo agreement or to substitute it with wholly new agreements or reciting slogans from yesterday."

He added: "The bet on the Soviet Union and Arab solidarity has failed and it is useless to continue to raise slogans that are based on bets."

The PPP leader said the Palestine authority now faced two choices: Whether to become a civil administration in Gaza and Jericho, or to develop the agreement on the way of establishing a Palestinian state.

Mr. al-Barghuthi said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was still in a better position than the PNA whose authority is limited by the Cairo agreement, noting that there is a Palestinian majority living outside Palestine and the self-rule areas.

He said the PLO's duties include working on regaining Jerusalem and solving the issues of refugees and settlements in accordance with international legitimacy.

Thus, he said, the PLO has more duties than the PNA, and mixing the two authorities would undermine struggle to achieve these goals.

He warned that there was a danger of splits emerging in the lines of the Palestinian people if the PLO merges with the PNA since the PLO was created outside Palestine and where three to four million refugees are living.

"If the PLO merges within the PNA it will leave a vacuum, prompting Palestinians to fill it which means there is a danger of splitting the Palestinian people," he said.

Mr. al-Barghuthi called for preserving the PLO and for establishing new departments in the organisation for Jerusalem, refugees and settlements.

Negotiator on 'Responsibility' Toward Refugees

JN0908102494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Nivin 'Abd-al-Hadi]

[Excerpts] Marwan Dudin, the head of the Refugee Committee in the multilateral negotiations, has said that Jordan was careful to emphasize its responsibility for the rights of the Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin in the agenda of negotiations with Israel. This includes citizens who took refuge in Jordan after 1948 or were displaced after the 1967 war. Israel and Jordan should agree to bilateral solutions in harmony with international legitimacy and international law.

Dudin was speaking to AL-DUSTUR on the issue of refugees and displaced persons, the right to compensation and repatriation, and reports about settling the refugees, who reside in Lebanon and Syria, in Jordan. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on reports that refugees in Lebanon and Syria will be settled in the al-Azraq region in Jordan, Dudin said: This is mere speculation, and Jordan has nothing to do with it. Here, we should remember that the Jordanian state, headed by his majesty the king, has repeatedly asserted that the Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin are Jordanian citizens who enjoy all the rights and have all the duties of other citizens.

He added that Jordan is demanding the legitimate rights of those citizens to repatriation or compensation. As Jordanians, it is up to those citizens to decide freely where they want to reside and to benefit, if they wish, from any opportunities that may arise within the framework of repatriation and compensation. [passage omitted]

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Phalangist Chief Assails Christopher Trips

NC0908064694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has denounced the Israeli massacre in Dayr al-Zahrani. At a Phalangist Party meeting, he said: We no longer care for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's routine shuttle tours of the region, because no tangible progress has been achieved on the Lebanese or Syrian tracks. Sa'adah asked: How long will our brethren in the south and western al-Biqa' suffer. He noted: This tragic situation must end. Sa'adah said the Americans and Israelis must understand that imposed peace will remain a temporary truce and separate peace will neither survive nor lead to results. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Dallul: Israel Will Not Invade

NC0808164394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has ruled out an Israeli invasion of Lebanon because he believes Israel realizes the price of such an invasion will be high and its aggression increases our solidarity.

In an interview with the Dubai-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, he affirmed that Lebanon has numerous cards to use to apply pressure in the peace negotiations and that there can be no peace without Lebanon and Syria. He believes that the reason why the U.S. secretary of state has not come to Lebanon is to put pressure on Lebanon.

Minister Dallul pointed out that Israel wants to restrict the activities of the joint military committee with Lebanon—something it demanded during discussions of security issues. This means that it wants to entrench the occupation and that the security of the occupier is being discussed.

He drew attention to the fact that the state appreciates the role of the resistance, which realizes that its national role will end when the occupation ends, when it will move on to political action. He added that it is impossible to clash with the resistance.

Hizballah Source: No Shift in Syrian Position

NC0908060094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has attributed the return of calm to the Lebanese-Israeli border to Syria's efforts. He added: It is over now and the Syrians must have played a role in this regard. [passage omitted]

Commenting on remarks by Peres, a responsible Hizballah source has told the newspaper AL-SAFIR: Peres' remarks are nothing more than an Israeli allegation. We know the background of Syria's position regarding the nature of the conflict with Israel. The source added: There is nothing to indicate any new development prompting a shift in the Syrian position, giving up for free what they believe to be a major force in the face of Zionist-U.S. pressure, as he put it.

The source added that the coming days will demonstrate that the Resistance operations against the occupation troops will continue at the same, if not an increased, pace.

Buwayz on Extradition Requests, Peace Process

MM0508170094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 94 p3

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has shown understanding of the Editors Syndicate's call for the appointment of press attaches at Lebanese embassies in the big powers, "particularly at this critical stage where information can be effective and useful." Buwayz received a syndicate delegation at Bustrus Palace and discussed information issues and held a dialogue on the peace process developments and foreign policy issues.

On the case of the Palestinian Yasir al-Shuraydi, accused of blowing up the night club in Berlin in 1986, Buwayz said: "That man is still detained on several charges. As regards the German Government's position, we have received no file from it proving that he (al-Shuraydi) had been convicted in Germany and giving details of the verdict and the evidence. That is why we cannot carry out an extradition on an oral basis, not in line with the legal, judicial, and diplomatic rules between states. The file which should have been sent to Lebanon has not been sent and, therefore, technically, the extradition cannot take place." [passage omitted]

On the charges made against Iran and Hizballah in connection with the London and Buenos Aires explosions, Buwayz said that the Argentine Foreign Ministry had summoned Lebanon's Ambassador Riyad al-Qintar and, on behalf of President Carlos Menem, requested extradition of those who might turn out to have been responsible for the explosion as well as those responsible for Ansarallah [followers of God]. He repeated the Lebanese position that extradition can only take place when there is a conviction against someone and a state requests it, in which case the state concerned is given the right to investigate in the normal way. He said that the Argentine request was "ambiguous and does not fulfill the judicial and legal requirements." He added: "Argentina has not given us the names of the people it wants." He also denied the existence in Lebanon of an organization by the name of Ansarallah. He said that the "Argentine request is groundless," adding that "we conveyed to the Argentine authorities our condemnation of any action against innocent civilians in any state in any manner, but we cannot take into consideration an ambiguous request that neither gives names of people requested [for extradition] nor follows accepted judicial

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procedure, and that is not based on any proof or evidence." He said that Argentina "perhaps gave in to Israeli pressures or took a stand for local political or election considerations," and that what has happened "is an attempt to hold Lebanon responsible for something it is not at all responsible for and has nothing to do with."

On the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who always ignores Lebanon, Buwayz said: "Christopher's visits are based on technical priorities he believes represent the ideal way of solving the region's problems." He said that, after finishing the Palestinian and Jordanian files, he would concentrate on the Lebanese and Syrian files. He described the latter file as "representing the political depth of the Arab-Israeli crisis." He said he believed that the turn of the Lebanese file would "come at the appropriate time." He added: "That is why I do not pay much attention to it." He noted that circumstances dictated that some issues should be dealt with before others "and we have no objection so long as the United States confirms that it is still committed to a comprehensive solution and that the signing or the peace decision would be made for all fronts at the same time. If the progress made is practical and technical and does not conceal an attempt to isolate anyone or single out anyone, then we have no objection, otherwise we would resist because the comprehensive nature of the solution is the basis of the peace process and one of its objectives."

Buwayz said that "Lebanese water is not negotiable with anyone. Our water resources are subject to our laws. We have no water to sell or lease. It is just about sufficient for us." [passage omitted]

He said that he had objected to the way in which the recent appointments were made in the cabinet because the ministers did not have advance knowledge of the names. He said the cabinet should be "an institution in the full sense of the word." He added that the next president of the republic "may come suited to the future circumstances of Lebanon and, since these circumstances are not fully clear, it is too early to raise the question of the presidency."

Buwayz said he believes that "peace in the Middle East has a very good chance now" and that "the ball is now in Israel's court as far as its commitment to UN resolutions, people's rights, the land-for-peace principle, and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories are concerned." He added that "the circumstances are now more suitable than in the past and could perhaps lead to a positive development, but there are crucial and sensitive points on which understanding has not been reached yet, and there are difficulties still under discussion. The time element is important for the crystallization of more ideas which would require delicate and sensitive negotiations." He said that "there is some difficulty so far in wresting Arab rights from Israel," and that Lebanon's idea of peace is that it should be comprehensive, lasting, just, and based on people's rights and implementation of UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

On Lebanon's future relations with Israel if it withdrew from its territory, and whether he would sign a full peace treaty with Israel, he said: "Lebanon is committed to all the foundations of peace in accordance with the Madrid principles and UN resolutions, all the substance of these principles, but whatever the features of such peace, the Arabs should in all circumstances preserve and reinforce the Arab identity and culture which must not disappear, and that includes Arab solidarity. And they should also consolidate their economic position."

Minister: Documents Needed for Extradition

NC0608172994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Justice Minister Wajih Tabbarah met German Ambassador Wolfgang Erich and discussed with him the issue of the detained individual Yasir al-Shuraydi, whom Germany wants to extradite on suspicion of involvement in the bombing of a nightclub in Germany in 1984.

Minister Tabbarah announced that al-Shuraydi is being held in custody in Lebanon in connection with the extradition request and other cases. He pointed out that Germany's extradition request requires certain additional documents so that it can be properly processed.

Tabbarah regretted that the German authorities had hastily announced that Lebanon had released al-Shuraydi without making sure that this information was accurate.

Birri Views Israeli Raid, Denies Bombing Links

NC0508143894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Aug 94

[News conference by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 5 August—recorded]

[Text] [Birri] This news conference will deal with yesterday's massacre in Dayr al-Zahrani. The Israeli statements and the expressions of regret by his excellency the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon today do not change the facts. If this issue was an error as Israel claims, the earlier Yuhmur incident was no error. The displacement of southern citizens in July 1993 was the same sort of thing, not an error. What is well-known is that the township of Dayr al-Zahrani is not close to the combat lines but lies deep in the liberated areas in the al-Nabatiyah District. During the attack, Israeli planes also carried out sorties over Iqlim al-Tuffah and bombarded that area in order to divert attention from the first attack. The Israelis actually intended to kill innocents, no more, no less, in order to cause the citizens to leave their homes as Israel wants.

Israel wants to evacuate the south and turn it into a wasteland. It is exploiting the U.S. secretary of state's planned visit to the region to escape any international condemnation of its attacks because everybody will be

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preoccupied with the negotiations. In short, we say that what happened in Dayr al-Zahrani yesterday is part of a series of persistent Israeli assaults. It was absolutely intentional and designed to cause the citizens of the south to leave their homes in Yuhmur, Dayr al-Zahrani, and the areas between them. For this reason I discussed the issue with his excellency the foreign minister and his excellency the president today. On behalf of the Chamber of Deputies and our kinfolk in the south and following the aforementioned telephone conversations, we urge the Lebanese Government to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council and to ask it to hold a session to condemn and deter Israel and decide on reparations for the victims. Furthermore, the government should insist on the decisive remedy, which is implementing Security Council Resolution 425. We stress this demand and hope that the Lebanese Government will respond to it. Neither the children and other innocents who fell victim yesterday, nor their families, the citizens of the south, nor indeed Lebanon itself were ever responsible for what happened in Argentina or Britain, just as they were not responsible for the attempted assassination of an Israeli ambassador in 1982 which was used as an excuse to invade Lebanon.

[Correspondent] [Indistinct question]

[Birri] The U.S. ambassador phoned to convey condolences about the victims on behalf of his government, which he said denounces and regrets this incident. At the same time, he said Israel had explained that this incident was a mistake. Naturally, we answered him that we all know that U.S.-made planes do not miss their targets and that this was not an artillery shelling, so we could say that a shell intended to hit a street hit another street or another house or that it was an indiscriminate shelling.

Furthermore, Dayr al-Zahrani is not a village close to the contact line which Israel frequently shells. Dayr al-Zahrani is situated on the road to al-Nabatiyah and is a five-minute drive from al-Musaylih. This was a deliberate action. Someone hits the wrong house if the village is not targeted. But if the village is targeted and the intention is to terrify residents in peaceful areas, then we fully know that the intention is to displace the population.

For one week Lahd's radio [Kafr Killa Voice of the South], his master's voice, issued several warnings to the civilian inhabitants to desert their dwellings if they were close to houses used by the resistance. Lahd's radio broadcast these threats several times and over several days.

[Correspondent] Did the U.S. ambassador convey new U.S. assurances [words indistinct]?

[Birri] On the contrary, even regarding the siege of the village of Yuhmur, the U.S. Administration said this siege is not permanent. But so far it has been unable to lift the siege on this thirsty village, which needs medicine and all types of humanitarian aid. The International Red Cross, the Lebanese Red Cross, and the humanitarian societies are not able to enter the village except on foot, as we all know. The U.S. Administration has been unable so far to ask persistently or to compel Israel to lift the siege on this village. Therefore, we hope and urgently ask that a complaint be lodged and that the UN Security Council convene.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Birri] He expressed regret only. I did not discuss this subject with him. However, I believe the president is currently summoning the ambassadors regarding this matter.

[Correspondent] What effect will this incident have on Christopher's tour?

[Birri] I don't believe it will have an effect. I believe Israel wants this situation to develop and always acts on the principle that it is easier to bend the iron while it is hot.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Birri] I don't believe there will be widespread attacks on the scale of an invasion. I believe that when Israel found out that its plan to displace the people failed before the resolve of the southerners, it embarked on such strikes, which are an air-based Dayr Yasin but on a smaller scale. There is no justification whatsoever.

Israel Bombs Villages; Resistance Fires Katyushas

NC0508205294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The villages of al-Hinniyah, al-'Izziyah, Zibqin, al- Khulaylah, and al-Mansurah have come under artillery bombardment from the Israeli occupation forces in al-Bayyadah and Tayr Harfa inside the occupied border strip. Resistance fighters have responded to these attacks by shelling the occupation forces' and agents' positions inside the border strip with katyushas.

'Resistance' Forces Attack Rshaf Position

NC0808170394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli attacks today the residents in the south have kept the atmosphere there tense and unsettled. After a night of shelling and many military plane sorties, at 1415 and again at 1520 today the heights of Jabal al-Rafi' came under artillery shelling. The resistance men responded to these attacks by attacking the Rshaf position. There is no further information available about this attack.

In another development, Yuhmur entered the 14th day of the siege imposed on it, which is getting tighter and tighter as a result of the occupation forces' practices. The most recent of these practices was the closure of the agricultural road, which is a side road off the Arnun-Yuhmur road, using a bulldozer for this purpose.

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Israeli Aircraft Stage Mock Raid Over South

NC0908083094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli military aircraft overflew the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tufah areas today, staging mock raids. The aircraft confronted anti-aircraft fire.

Israeli acts of aggression continued until morning. The hostile artillery used rockets and machine guns and pounded the Jabal al- Rafi' hills. The Israeli forces have continued their siege of Yuhmur for the 15th consecutive day. These forces have begun to blockade Arnun. The inhabitants of both towns continue their sit-in at the Lebanese Red Cross center in al-Nabatiyah.

Al-Hirawi Receives Patriarch Sfayr's Message

NC0608173994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received a message from Maronite Patriarch Mar Nusrallah Butrus Sfayr dealing with the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], due to be held in Cairo next month, and the need for the Lebanese delegation to stress human rights in that conference. Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah delivered the message.

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Daily on Rejection of 'All Forms of Pressure'

JN0908063594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 9 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "No Relinquishment of Arab Rights," AL-BA'TH today comments: During his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state, leader al-Asad has emphasized the seriousness of Syria's efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the grounds and principles on which the peace process has been based since it was launched at the Madrid conference.

The newspaper adds: For his part, the U.S. secretary lauded the Syrian position. This was not the first time that he has expressed his belief in the seriousness of this position and Syria's respect for the resolutions of the international community.

The newspaper notes the firmness of the Syrian Arab position and its confrontation—from the very beginning—of all Israeli plots aimed at derailing the peace initiative from its true course, at encroaching on the Syrian position, and at drawing Syria into unilateral and separate deals with aim of reaching the point of capitulation to the policy of partial solutions and separate deals that ensure the Israeli hegemony on the region.

The newspapers says the gap between Syrian and Israel is still wide and deep because Syria adheres to the bases of the peace initiative and opposes the relinquishment of any rights in the face of Israeli intransigence and procrastination.

The newspaper expresses astonishment that some parties claim to speak on behalf of Syria, making statements that progress is close at hand on the Syrian track, and then on the Lebanese track as well. It emphasizes that no one has the right to speak in the name of Damascus because Damascus is able to declare its position very clearly, and has nothing to do with all that is being said and rumored about secret diplomacy.

The newspaper stresses that Syria has rejected and is rejecting this kind of diplomacy, and also rejects all forms of pressure that have been and are still being applied to it with the aim of employing Syrian pressure against the heroic Lebanese national resistance.

On this subject, the newspaper says: Those who are worried as a result of resistance operations should really be worried about the aggressive Israeli attacks against south Lebanon. Furthermore, they should employ pressure on Israel to stop these attacks immediately.

Radio Views Al-Asad-Christopher Talks

JN0808165894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In his latest session with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad set out Syria's position on the American ideas on the peace process. His excellency the president made it plain Syria was earnest in its quest for the eventual goal of the peace process—a just and comprehensive peace.

Not that Syria's genuine interest in peace is anything new; it has consistently sought a fair peace based on UN resolutinos. It was in this spirit that it embraced the American initiative that set the ball of the peace process rolling. Syria has consistently embraced UN resolutions and extended every possible cooperation to all mediatory international efforts geared toward forging a just and comprehensive peace grounded in UN resolutions.

Syria's peace strategy was not born yesterday; it is a long-standing strategy, since there is no conflict between peace and Syria's interests; indeed the two are compatible.

It was thanks to Syria that former President George Bush's peace initiative got off the ground; it had been rejected in writing by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is common knowledge that the peace process took off from bases agreed upon between the United States and the parties concerned. The exercise set out to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula.

Over the past three years, Syria has shown with material evidence that it is working to make a go of the peace process and establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. If that much-sought-after goal has thus far proved elusive, no blame must be attached to Syria. Were it a matter of Syria's will, Middle East peace would have long been an established reality. Syria has invariably been open to whatever peacemaking ideas came up. The American sponsors, who have exerted themselves to attain peace, have been impressed by Syria's peace intentions and the compatibility of its position with the foundations that launched the peace process. Syria wants nothing more than the implementation of UN resolutions envisaging the restitution of Arab territory and rights and an end to half a century of wars and devastation and regional instability.

While Syrian interests stand to gain from peace, U.S. and global interests will be no less advanced. Beyond that, peace will be a fulfillment of the aspirations and ambitions of the people of the region. Peace will be at hand, once all the parties are as bound as Syria by the peace process. Instead of the dream it is now, peace will then be a physical reality.

3-Way Meeting With Area Foreign Ministers Delayed

JN0808181694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] A three-way meeting set to have been held in Damascus today has now been put off to 11 August. The

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postponement was the result of contacts Foreign Minister al-Shar' held with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Turkey's (Mumtaz Sweysan) [name and title as heard].

Armenian Delegation Discusses Energy Problems

NC0808203094 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reports that Armenian Deputy Minister of Energy Karen Galustyan; Ronald Adonts, director of the Haygazart [Armenian gas production] firm; and Ashot Malkhazyan, head of the firm's foreign affairs department, are in Syria on a working visit.

The delegation met with Muhammad Abdul, director of the Syrian Petroleum Company; (Orinad Kurdi) director of the (Mahlugat) firm; 'Isa Ibrahim, deputy minister of oil production; and Minister of Energy [name indistinct].

During the talks, the Syrian officials welcomed the Armenian Republic's participation in the [word indistinct] construction of a 450-km gas pipeline in Syria.

An agreement was concluded during the meeting with the Syrian energy minister to study the possibility of the Armenian experts' employment in the (Tishlin) thermal power station or other power plants, in particular in the construction and repair of the new power generating units.

The possibility of purchasing fuel from Syria and cooperation between the two countries in the energy field were also discussed during the meetings.

Radio Reports Jordanian Parties' Statement

JN0808210894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian parties have strongly denounced the inauguration of a new crossing between al-'Aqabah and Elat, the handshakes and hugging between retired officers from both sides, and the equality between the families of the Jordanian Arab martyrs and the families of the Israelis who were killed during their aggressions against the Arab territories and sanctities. This is in addition to the handshakes between the commanders of the Jordanian and Israeli military areas.

In a press statement distributed in Amman today, the Jordanian parties said: Our government is proceeding unhesitatingly with implementing what was agreed upon in Washington overtly and covertly in a race with time before many people recover from the appalling shock of all that has taken place, and before the unconscious ones regain consciousness.

The parties which signed the statement expressed their astonishment at this unjustified decline and the accelerating moves toward normalization with the Zionist enemy despite the claim that we have not yet signed any separate deal. The parties said: What we see regrettably goes far beyond all that can be achieved by a separate peace treaty.

The statement called on the masses of the people to reject this decline, to demonstrate vigilance, and to oppose the accelerating normalization moves. The statement stressed the parties' rejection of this entry by the enemy, as well as the hospitality accorded to its leaders in our homes and on our territory before our usurped rights to territory and holy shrines in Jordan, Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon are restored.

The statement added: What has taken place thus far constitutes a serious relinquishment of the Islamic, national, and pan-Arab constant principles.

The statement was signed by the Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd), Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Resisting Submission and Normalization.

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Iran

Burmese Minister Visits Tehran, Discusses Ties

LD0808134594 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Diplomatic relations between IRNA and Myanmar [Burma] as well as major regional and international issues were discussed by visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Nyunt Swe and his Iranian counterpart 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here Monday.

The Myanmar minister, who is here on an official visit heading an economic delegation, elaborated on the latest political and economic developments in his country.

He said despite Myanmar's switch from centralized economy to open door economic policy, it has not changed its diplomacy.

The Government of Myanmar was pleased to have taken effective steps towards strengthening her ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said.

He said Myanmar was interested in having direct trade relations with Iran and welcomed timber trade and exchange of expertise in the area of forestry.

He said the Muslims of Myanmar are active in practising their religious rites, and voiced his country's readiness to readmit all Muslims deported from that country.

Borujerdi, a deputy for Asian and Oceania affairs, too, welcomed the idea of strengthening relations between Iran and Myanmar, saying that to know more about the economic capacity of each other and swapping goods could be a good beginning for bilateral cooperation.

Recieved by Velayati

LD0808171294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe, at his meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati today, called for the expansion of relations in the political, cultural, and economic fields. He also announced the readiness of his country for joint cooperation with Iran at the next UN General Assembly. The Burmese deputy foreign minister also gave a report on the situation of his country's Muslim refugees in Bangladesh. He said: Approximately 70 percent of Burmese Muslims have returned home and the Burmese Government is ready to receive the remaining Muslim refugees.

Mr. Velayati welcomed the expansion of mutual ties and further meetings between officials of the two countries of Iran and Burma.

Velayati Opposes Foreign Interference in Tajikistan

LD0808202894 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that foreign countries must not interfere in the internal affairs of Tajikistan, and called on the Tajik people to assert their viewpoints under the present circumstances.

Velayati who interviewed by the Russian news agency 'ITAR-TASS', said military solution for Tajikistan is "unacceptable".

Islamic Iran, he added, has always invited the two sides, the government and the opposition, to work for a peaceful solution to the clashes in Tajikistan.

Iran follows a neutral policy in the Tajik crisis, said the foreign minister.

So far two rounds of talks on the Tajik crisis have been held in Moscow and Tehran, and the third round is scheduled to be held in Islamabad.

The Islamic republic while being impartial has always wished that the conflicts in Tajikistan will be solved amicably, said Velayati.

Departs on Central Asian Tour

LD0908082894 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, on the first leg of his official tour to the Central Asian republics Tuesday morning. The tour will also take the foreign minister to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Nakhichevan.

Velayati is to hold meetings with the heads of states, foreign ministers and ranking officials of the said republics and will discuss with them key regional issues as well as mutual ties. The Iranian official is to follow up implementation of the agreements already signed in Tehran between presidents of the republics and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Multilateral ties as well as political, economic and cultural cooperation in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) will also be discussed.

Exchange of visits by ranking delegations has paved the way for upgrading multilateral cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral states and Iran and has culminated in regional cooperation within the framework of ECO with other parts of the world. Furthermore, Iran's efforts to mediate between Azerbaijan and Armenia as well as its initiative to bring about national reconciliation between the parties involved in bilateral and multilateral Tajikistan peace talks in Tehran has facilitated boosting of ties between Iran and the Central Asian republics.

Daily on Tajikistan Situation

NC0708105494 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Jul 94 p 12

[Hasan Fathi commentary: "Tajikistan—New Round of Conflicts"]

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[Text] Despite the negotiations between the Tajik Government and the opposition groups in Moscow and Tehran, the situation in the Republic continues to be critical and the two sides have not yet been able to find a formula for compromise and for resolving their disputes and differences.

Following the Moscow and Tehran talks, which took place in the presence of the UN envoy optimists, both sides viewed them as successful. However, a group of political analysts and observers believed that more effort was needed to achieve peace and reconciliation in Tajikistan and that a peace formula should be sought in Moscow because no one can be found in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, who is able to decide on war or peace without permission from the Russians.

The kidnapping of 53 Russian servicemen by the opposition forces in an area 180 km from Dushanbe and efforts by Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Council of Ministers, for general elections in September show that the opposition and the government forces are each playing their own tune and do not pay much attention to talks and marginal issues.

The war in Tajikistan is actually a conflict between the Russians and those forces that want to gain true independence after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and to bring to power a national-Islamic government in that Muslim country. The extent of the conflicts between the Muslims and nationalists and the government forces and their Russian allies in Tajikistan have gone beyond that country and spread to neighboring ones, especially Afghanistan. The Tajik Government is accusing the Afghans of supporting and arming the opposition. Afghan President Rabbani's visit to Dushanbe was unable to stop the cooperation between the Afghans and the Tajik rebels.

The conflicts are mostly on the joint Afghan-Tajik borders and in Badakhshan Province. The Russian forces, whose presence in this region is greater than in any other, are trying to control the border areas. But they have been unable to establish security inside Tajikistan and the borders for Imamali Rakhmanov's government. Thus, the conflicts continue and all efforts to end them have been ineffective.

The Russians and the former communists who are in power in Tajikistan think that by crushing the Islamic and nationalist groups in Tajikistan and by sparking off a red terror, they will be able to stop these groups and to establish their ownership over that land forever. But incidents show that things are not as they expected them to be and that because of the favorable popular support that they enjoy, these groups are able to resist the joint pressures from the former communists and the Russian Army.

Therefore, at a time when Tajikistan has become unsafe for the Russians and their allies, the best thing to do is to take talks seriously and to stop wasting time, since the Russian forces and the Tajik Government forces will be unable to continue the current war of attrition, which will only weaken their ranks. The recent hostage incident proves that the rebels have noteworthy capabilities but that because of certain reasons they have still not deployed all their might. At the current juncture, the intensification of conflicts is not beneficial to either side and cannot solve any problems. A solution to the problem through peaceful means is the best method, which should top the list of all programs.

Letter to U.S. Daily Denies Bombing Involvement

LD0808211794 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] United Nations HQ. (New York). Aug. 8, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran by condemning terrorist measures and attacks against innocent persons considered the reports of the western mass media alleging Iranian involvement in the blast at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires, as due to the plots of Zionists.

The press official of the Iranian representation at the U.N. has said this in a letter to the editor of NEW YORK TIMES that has been published in the Monday issue of the paper.

The letter was written in reply to an article in the July 26 issue of the paper which quoting a Jewish leader of the United States, alleged that Iran was in high probability to be blamed for the Jewish center blast in Argentina.

The letter noted that none of the official figures of Argentina had accused Iran in this regard. The Iranian ambassador to Argentina in his meeting on 25 July with the foreign minister of that country by submitting the message of Islamic Iran in condemning terrorism in all forms, announced the readiness of Iran to help the Argentine Government probe the issue.

The letter also refuted the claims of Manuchehr Mo'tamer. It said Mo'tamer had no connection with the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Embassy in Caracas had provided the man and his family a night's shelter when he said he was short of money and wanted to return home.

Later the man applied for political asylum and claimed that he was kept with force by the responsible people of the Iran Embassy.

At the end of this letter it has been said that the responsible people of the Islamic Republic of Iran are reviewing this plot that its goal was to cheat the officials of Venezuella and discredit Iran.

Butrus-Ghali Urged To Condemn Mashhad Bombing

LD0908092694 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 9 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has been urged to fulfil his legal and

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humanitarian obligations by condemning June 20 bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) and taking immediate measures for the extradition of those involved in the heinous crime. In a letter to the U.N. chief, the bereaved family of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Arbabi who was among the 26 martyrs of the bombing carried out by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), also called on the French Government to expel the MKO agents residing in that country.

The letter stressed that governments supporting terrorism, especially the Baghdad regime which has given shelter to the military branch of the MKO, should be pressed in order to extradite the criminals. It said that paying no heed to such a legitimate and just demand on the part of those in charge of the U.N. would not be forgiven and history would sit in judgement on them.

UN Double Standard Seen in Airliner Downings

LD0608204894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Unattributed commentary: "New Sanctions to Pressure Libya"]

[Text] The UN Security Council on Friday, 5 August extended for another four months the sanctions imposed on Libya.

The representatives of the United States, Britain, and France said the sanctions will be lifted if Libya hands over the two Libyan suspects to the British or U.S. courts and renounced terrorism.

It is worth reminding that following the 1989 bombing of a Pan Am Boeing 747 airliner over Lockerbie, in Scotland, the United States, Britain, and France accused two Libyan nationals of being involved in the explosion and demanded their extradition from the Libyan Government. But the Libyan Government considered this as violation of its national sovereignty, refusing the unconditional handing over of the two to the West.

Eventually the UN Security Council, under the pressure of the United States, Britain, and France, imposed sanctions on Libya in April 1992 due to Libya's refusal to hand over the two Libyans suspected of bombing the Pan Am airliner.

Since the beginning of the crisis, however, Libya, by condemning terrorism in all shapes and by observing international laws, has offered plans to resolve the Lockerbie issue and get the economic sanctions lifted.

In continuation of its efforts, Libya set forth some new proposals. The first proposal was on putting the accused on trial on any Arab state with the consent of that government. The second proposal made by Libya called for the trial by the International Court of Justice at The Hague or at the European headquarters of the United Nations under the court rules of Scotland.

In the opinion of political observers the Westerners, by levelling such accusations want to put Libya under political and economic pressures in order to compel it to accept the regional policies and in general the so-called new world order.

Meanwhile, UN action in identical cases shows that it observers a double standard.

The reason is that the world body failed to show any reaction on the downing of an Iranian airliner by America, and even did not denounce this crime.

But in respect of the downing of an American passenger plane it showed a quick reaction, and has so far put Libya under strong pressure by issuing three resolutions.

This indicates that in fact the United Nations has become a pressure lever being manipulated by the big powers to secure their own interests.

Consequences of Jordanian-Israeli Accord Viewed

NC0808133994 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jul 94 pp 18, 20

[M. Shahidi commentary: "The Middle East: The Second Act in the Play Entitled Peace"]

[Excerpts] After the lapse of nearly a year since the 'Arafat-Rabin play was staged in Washington, another act came on the scene in which King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, met and signed the final accord for resolving differences in the longstanding Middle East dispute and for cooperation between the two countries.

The preliminaries of this event were completed in the past few weeks during meetings between the various committees set up by Israel and Jordan, which dealt with issues such as the border situation, water and its division, security, and the environment. [passage omitted]

This session signifies considerable progress in the Israeli strategy for "dividing the Arabs from one another" and bringing them one by one to the negotiating table. Syria is the most persevering member of the Arab world, which has constantly called for "collective Arab action" in its approach to the Zionist enemy and in forging ahead with the process of peace with the Zionist regime. It warned the Arab countries from participating in individual talks and naturally, with Jordan now joining the peace train, Syria will feel more alone than ever. This is the most important gain for Israel in the protracted Middle East crisis.

Similarly, Israel is hopeful that by resolving its differences with Jordan, it is a step closer to the lifting of the political and economic boycott by the Arabs and will be able to lay the foundation of commercial and economic relations with a "new Middle East," of which Shim'on Peres is the founder. [passage omitted]

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The fact is that at present this meeting has taken place and King Husayn will also join al-Sadat one day. The main question is: What will be the conditions in the region in the aftermath of this development? According to most analysts of Middle East issues, the signing of this accord between Jordan and Israel cannot be considered an end to the regional crisis, which is almost half a century old. This is because numerous anomalies are inherent in the process of the so-called peace talks, each one of which can either delay or defeat it.

1. As the "key to peace," Syria continues to adhere to its stance and is not ready to relinquish it, and Christopher's frequent visits to the region have also been fruitless. Hafiz al-Asad will endeavor to avoid the "trap"—unlike some other Arab rulers—with sagacity and shrewdness, and Israel's "threats and temptations" will not daunt him from his chosen path. With its awareness of the fact that the strategy of "strategic balances" after the Soviet Union's exit from scene of world rivalry has become anachronistic, Syria will resort to relying on the lever of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and Palestine with its politico-military prowess in a more tangible manner.

2. Another important factor is the intifadah and the Palestinian element, which is the center of the Middle East crisis and the real root of the conflict. At present, half of the Jordanian people are Palestinians, and this factor has been a constant cause of anxiety to King Husayn. It is possible that King Husayn may solve his problem with Israel, but due to the fact that the issue of Palestine remains unresolved, Jordan will not be able to exit from the orbit of the crisis.

3. The other important factor is Israel itself, in the nature of which aggression is deeply ingrained and its strategy is "territorial expansion" and the attainment of the land from the Nile to the Euphrates. It is certain that from the Israeli perspective, the present stages are merely the peripheral benefits of peace (the Gaza-Jericho accord and Jordanian-Israeli accord) and constitute part of its strategy for the surrender of the Arabs.

An important point in conclusion is that, despite its joining the peace train and the acceptance of its disgrace and humiliation, Jordan will not reap any benefits. Even now all the political, Islamic, and national forces have risen up in opposition against the Jordanian monarch in such a manner that to eliminate the obstacles in his path, King Husayn had to resort to measures such as the dissolution of the parliament and a reshuffle of the cabinet.

Certain potential elements in Jordan will make it difficult for the king of the country—who is in the last years of his life, according to reports—to determine the conditions in the country. In addition, the rightist Israeli faction members are repeating the quote: "Jordan is the same as Palestine," and there is no guarantee that the Gaza-Jericho accord will forge ahead in accordance with 'Arafat's deductions. Together these two issues can bode a bleak future for Jordan.

Anti-Iranian Stance in Turkish Press Criticized

NC0508182394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Outcome of Research!"]

[Text] The broadening of regional relations with neighboring countries is one of the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy in the sphere of international exchanges. An appraisal that was carried out indicates that at the most minute signs of improvement in Iran's regional relations, the West and Zionism are gripped by distress and they seek to disrupt the trend of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign cooperation by all possible means.

As a Muslim country that possesses all the attributes of a country with which relations should be improved, Turkey has constantly been the focus of the Islamic Republic of Iran's attention. Iran's political, economic, and cultural relations with Turkey have not gone unnoticed by the intrusive eyes of the West and the Zionists and their propaganda instruments have consistently sought to disrupt relations and generate tension between Tehran and Ankara. The results of a study of Turkish publications, which are probably under Zionist domination, indicates that these publications are stricken with apprehension at the improvement of Iran's relations and embark on extensive propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran even just before visits by officials of the two countries.

According to this study, reports from 17 news sources in Turkey disseminated over the past five months were researched using the substantive analysis method. This study shows that the newspapers OZGUR GUNDEM, HURRIYET, SABAH, AYDINLIK, and the semi-official Anatolia News Agency are Turkey's main purveyors of news against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These sources base most of the core of their propaganda on the following topics: Terrorism, lack of freedom for various religions, Iran's hostility toward Turkey, irreverence toward Iranian officials, ignoring women's rights, the Salman Rushdie issue, the economic situation, and efforts to depict Iran as isolated.

While stressing the need to identify the sources of Zionism and freemasonry in the Turkish mass media, this appraisal has naturally emphasized the need to neutralize these covert plots that are acting as destructive elements in the broadening of relations between two neighboring countries.

'Ineptness' in Making Tehran's Case Criticized

NC0508102094 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 31 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "An Object Lesson in Disinformation"]

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[Text] The international media has been busy speculating to see to what degree the recent bombings that first hit the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association building on July 18, leaving 100 dead and 250 injured; followed on July 27 by explosions at the Israeli Embassy in London and, 12 hours later the London offices of a building housing Zionist organizations, can be blamed on Iran without the benefit of supporting evidence.

Your correspondent is perusing 40 reports both on this subject and the recent treachery committed by Jordan's King Husayn on July 24 in Washington, in signing a friendship pact with Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Most of these wire service stories measure between 50-75 meters in length: pretty wordy stuff.

In this mass of verbiage lamenting the "blindness of the enemies of peace" (King Husayn) and the "enemies of peace" (Bill Clinton), only two lines tell of the "Israel blitz of south Lebanon that killed 150 people and made 300,000 flee their homes" in this same period. The weeklong invasion by Tel Aviv's army of occupation in Lebanon, which is in blatant contravention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, calling for the Israeli Defense Forces to withdraw from South Lebanon, does not even rate 100 words—two paragraphs.

Undocumented witch hunting about Iranian involvement abounds and here it is well to keep certain realities of present day Iran, plus historical reality, in perspective. Briefly, and brutally stated, the Islamic Republic's media, public relations apparatus and statesmen have repeatedly revealed a near total ineptness in making their case, across a broad range of issues, before the court of international public opinion. This latest anti-Iran campaign will in all likelihood witness a wholly predictable and repetitive series of scathing, vituperative ineffective pronouncements.

The Zionists on the other hand, as they have publicly acknowledged, are masters of the art of internationalism, which in today's world translates as genius in shaping public opinion. As an example, take Yitzhaq Rabin's Washington broadside against 'anti-Semitism', which he used to label the attacks in London and Buenos Aires.

Rabin himself is not even vaguely Semitic. His ancestry and that of the overwhelming majority of Israel's top leadership are from Europe. Specifically, descendants of the Tartar Khazar tribe of the Caucasus Mountain region, that accepted Judaism in the 10th century A.D. Yet when these Semite imposters label anyone "anti-Semitic", the hapless victims cringe, scurry for cover and in the process many a career is ruined. Witness former U.N. Secretary General and President of Austria Kurt Waldheim.

Before governments and opinion makers who should know better, begin to follow Messrs. Rabin and Peres' lead in their undisguised attempts to isolate and punish Iran for opposing the spread of Arab capitulation to the Zionist state (known by the euphemism "peace process"), they should read a bit of history in this respect.

[Text] Keep in mind that the Zionist movement did negotiate with the Nazi regime at the cost of tens of thousands of Jewish lives. The movement also scuttled a shipload of Jewish European refugees off the coast of Palestine in order to increase international support for emigration into Palestine.

It is well known that the bomb attacks against the Jewish quarter in Baghdad in the mid-50s were carried out by the Zionist states intelligence services and proved effective in prompting a massive exodus of Iraqi Jews to Israel. This tactic was repeated in Yemen.

The Lavon Affair is another case in point. This scandal broke in mid-1954 when the Egyptian government announced that an Israeli sabotage ring had been arrested which was responsible for bombing American, British and Egyptian installations in Egypt, with a view to derailing a possible Washington-London-Cairo rapprochement.

What is worth noting and of relevance to the charges being leveled against Tehran today, is that the Lavon Affair represented a milestone in the joint Israel-British-French invasion of Egypt's Suez Canal in the first week of November 1956.

The French animus towards Egypt was a consequence of Cairo's support for the Algerians' anti-colonial war being waged against France.

It is well to recall Menachem Begin's masterminding the destruction of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in July of 1946. 82 people died and 16 of them were Jews. A British arrest warrant was placed on Begin and expired only when he did.

Another noteworthy contrast relates to the carnage at the Al-Khalil Mosque in Hebron on Feb. 25, 1994 and the slaughter of Muslims in the compound of Al-Aqsa Mosque on Oct. 8, 1990. Both outrages were the work of American born Jews and both of the men were quickly declared "crazy", thus presumably precluding any connection between them and either Washington or Tel Aviv. Whoever heard of a Muslim "terrorist" being "deranged" or not "state- sponsored"?

Regarding the ongoing Arab capitulation in the Mideast, it is indeed remarkable how Yasir 'Arafat has become director general for Israeli security against the Islamic movement there. Equally astounding is the fact that Arab governments are killing en masse the very Islamic activists Israel is afraid of.

And lest we forget, let us request something from the Argentine Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is shuttling back and forth to Caracas interviewing an Iranian national, Manuchehr Mo'atamer. Mo'atamer reportedly claims to know the details both of the 1992 destruction

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of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and the recent explosion there at the Jewish center from A-Z.

The judge should check the man's bank accounts. Any large infusions of cash recently received by him will prove to be more telling evidence than what he purports to know about events in Buenos Aires.

This particular turncoat however is definitely not in a class with Israel's heroic Mordekhay Vannunu, who unlike Rabin, is a Semitic.

He is also in jail for a long time to come (a victim of state-sponsored international kidnapping) for exposing the Zionist state's hundreds of warheads strong nuclear arsenal. And Bill Clinton says he is concerned about nuclear proliferation. While Israel gets a yearly welfare check of US $3b. New world order? Peace Process? Give us a break.

Majles Debates Second Five-Year Plan Bill

LD0808122794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The generalities of the bill for the second plan for the social, economic, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been approved by a decisive majority of Majles deputies. Let me draw your attention to our correspondent's report.

[Unidentified correspondent] The debate on the first reading of the bill for the second plan for the social, economic, and cultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran began in today's open Majles session. In accordance with the internal regulations of the Majles, several deputies expressed views in favor and several deputies expressed views against the bill.

The opposing deputies criticized the plan's extension of the policy of privatization to parts of the further education and health sectors. They also criticized the failure to make correct and precise provisions in connection with the sale of public property and the transfer to individuals of shares belonging to the government, and the lack of a clear definition of the mechanism according to which subsidies will be paid. They mentioned the following as some of the shortcomings of the plan: the limitations placed on the implementation of the country's annual general budgets [as heard]; the lack of provision for a correct method of implementating supervision of qualitative and quantitive issues relating to government departments; and the failure to establish the necessary coordination between various sectors in the implementation of the plan.

Other issues mentioned by the opposing deputies included: the lack of clarity with regard to the sources of revenue for the realization of the plan's aims; the lack of attention given to investment in the training of the workforce; the growth in expenditure in the industrial sector and the price increases in the energy sector; the lack of clarity with regard to regional balance [as heard]; the lack of definition with regard to the mechanism according to which wages are set; and the permission granted for an increase in the price of oil products on a one-time basis in the course of the second plan.

The deputies in favor, for their part, mentioned the following as the important and positive features and specifications of the second development plan: The precise attention and obedience shown to the policies declared by the eminent leader [Khamene'i]; the efforts made toward the realization of social justice; the improvement in the people's living standards and the logical long-term vision with regard to meeting the interests of society; the priority given to deprived regions and villages in the allocation of credit; the continuation of the payment of subsidies for basic goods to help the society's under-privileged strata; and the adoption of a general trend toward economic stability and consolidation.

Other issues raised by those deputies in favor as positive features of the second plan included: the reform of the tax system; attention to the agricultural sector; the creation of regional balance in developmental investment; provision for implementing the principle of non-concentration [as heard]; the decisions made on the ownership of agricultural property and the attention given to the cooperatives sector; provision of a mechanism for harnessing inflation; a logical policy in connection with the gradual reduction of foreign obligations; the attention given to children and youth; and the priority given to the selfless devotees [former combatants] and basijis [mobilization units] in connection with the use of facilities.

With the approval of the generalities of the second development plan, the proposals put forward by Majles deputies and commissions in connection with clauses one, two, and three were examined as part of the discussion of the clauses relating to the bill's macro-economic aims and basic policies.

Clause one states: From 1374 [year beginning 21 March 1995] the government is dutybound to present annual budget bills to the Majles by 5 Azar [26 November] of each year at the latest in accordance with the articles of this law. The government may—if it achieves revenues in rials exceeding the figures stated in this law—increase the opening seasonal credit of various sectors in line with the growth of its revenues in rials; and—if the predicted revenues are not achieved—it may reduce the credit allocated to various sectors except for credits related to water, agricultural, and natural resources.

According to clause one, the government is dutybound—if it achieves revenues in foreign exchange and in rials exceeding the figures stated in this law—to use 50 percent of its revenues to repay obligations and debts and to use the remaining 50 percent toward developmental and current expenditures in keeping with the priorities delineated within this law.

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Clause two makes it incumbent on the government to make provisions, when drawing up annual budgets, for the implementation of non-concentration policies and for increasing the role of provinces in carrying out programs for economic, social, and cultural development. The government is also dutybound, by the end of the second development plan, to gradually remove all the projects that are provincial in nature from the list of national projects and put them under provincial budgets.

In clause three, the make-up of the members of the council of money and credit has been amended in order to strengthen the council. [passage omitted]

Further on Debate

LD0808182094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpts] During today's Islamic Consultative Majles afternoon session, Majles deputies continued their debate on the high aims and fundamental policies of the Second Five-Year Plan for social, economic, and cultural development. Some proposals made by the Majles deputies and committees on paragraphs four through 11 were studied and a number of them were approved.

Our correspondent reports that according to one of the paragraphs, subsidies for basic commodities, medicine, and powdered milk will continue during the Second Five-Year Plan. [passage omitted]

In order to make savings in the consumption of oil products and the maintenance of social justice during the implementation of the second plan, the price of oil products will increase and the effects will be compensated in an appropriate way. Also, increases in prices for water, electricity, and gas will be implemented in such a way that they will leave bills for an average low-consuming subscriber unchanged. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent mentions that according to another paragraph of the bill, the government is dutybound to organize the payment schedules for its commitments in such a way that the actual payments and their interest reduce the total payments by at least five percent each year. The total of the country's debts and commitments during the last year of the plan should not go above $25 billion. Also, within the framework and policies of the law, foreign investors can invest in various economic sectors with the participation of their Iranian partners. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Discusses Financial Practices

NC0908103694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 28 Jul 94 pp 4, 15

[Article by Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran: "Foreign Purchase Management"]

[Text] Every year millions of tons of goods including a few hundred thousands of tons of products and services enter the country. The average annual value of imports to Iran in the past five years exceeds $25 billion, bringing the collective cost of imports under the First Five-Year Plan to $100 billion [figure as published]. With such a volume of foreign purchases, efficient management of such foreign purchases is wise and necessary.

In today's world efforts are being made to ponder more efficient methods of foreign dealing. To create new techniques for this purpose they are also being considered as a powerful instrument to ensure strategic political and economic interests. Initially I will mention only the relatively rudimentary of these interests, that is, a correct procedure for conducting foreign buying.

1. Attention should be paid to the essential and diverse uses of the goods purchased. Some are consumer goods and some are bought collectively or through investors and brokers. Consumer goods can be divided into different categories such as perishable foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, luxury goods, nonessential goods etc. The purchase of such goods is certainly different from the purchase of the heavy machinery required for a refinery, power station, or factory.

2. Purchases can be in cash or over an extended period. Cash purchases can be made against drafts or credits and extended purchases can be short, medium, or long-term transactions. Numerous procedures and methods have come into being for credit and extended period transactions. These are adopted to make the most of the monetary resources of the country or company. International stock exchanges use a variety of optional, financial, and credit instruments. Various new practices to provide coverage from risks stemming from fluctuations in the price of commodities and swings in foreign exchange rates have also been introduced and are used by international magnates.

3. For most products there is a sales market rather than a purchase market. This means that it is the purchaser who must endure the conditions imposed by the seller. The purchasers generate the demand and the seller produces goods in accordance with those demands. The producer will not produce unless there is a demand. Today there is intense competition for attracting buyers and the greater the competition the greater the choice for the purchaser. The exception to this rule is when there is a specific product that constitutes only a minor percentage of the hundreds of thousands of other goods we import.

Another factor that marks out our country is that our resources are limited compared with the needs of our greatly increasing population. This limitation dictates that every foreign product purchased should be used in the best possible way so that our resources are conserved and we get the requisite and appropriate results.

In such an atmosphere we witness that in our country there is a marked inclination toward foreign purchases against cash. Every organization or institution that needs

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to purchase a foreign product immediately thinks of buying it through the most basic procedure, that is, against cash. Within such a framework, it must accept the seller's conditions most of the time.

This is why it has been observed that the purchaser—whether private or a government organization—will buy heavy machinery for a factory worth billions of dollars or animal feed worth $10 million all against cash. Then when they are faced with limited resources—and this has happened—they will begin by first paying cash and then by extended payments.

When, due to a reduction in our oil income, we should utilize our limited resources intensively, again we are observing that most of the purchasers of raw materials—whether they deal through investors or brokers—have a tendency to purchase against cash payments.

It is on the pretext of various commercial banks not accepting credit that the most unfavorable form of purchase has become popularized among us. We pay in currency notes or bank drafts from a foreign account to the sellers with a heavy percentage in advance exceeding 20 percent at times.

The result of this method of purchase is that we use our limited resources in a restrictive way that is tantamount to squandering our resources. Instead of citing urgency, need, and other pretexts as the reasons for cash purchases or short-term purchases with imbursements of heavy advance payments and thus putting pressure on the banks—by insisting on expeditious payments in foreign exchange currency in cash—we should plan ahead and identify the various commodities. We should generate competition and in view of the nature of the goods and the climate prevailing in the market, we should adopt the correct methods of purchase.

We should accept that the bank does not have an inexhaustible treasure chest from which to immediately procure foreign exchange at the purchasers' whims and to present actual cash and currency or bank drafts to them. The reason for this inappropriate practice is that in our culture we presume that we always have ready cash and foreign exchange to hand. When we need a commodity or a service we should first consider our resources and then take steps toward the purchase. The acquisition of resources is one of the most important principles for foreign purchases. The kind and level of resources should determine the goods, not vice versa.

Opposition Sources Say 37 Killed in Qazvin Clashes

MM0808153494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Safa Ha'iri: "Revolutionary Guards Besiege Qazvin and Arrest 745 People 'Including Infiltrators'"]

[Excerpt] Paris—The Iranian Revolutionary Guards yesterday tightened their siege of the city of Qazvin in the northwest of the country, imposed an unannounced curfew, and arrested about 745 people following the disturbances in the city over the past hours.

Iranian opposition sources unanimously agree that the clashes between the city's population seeking administrative independence and the security forces resulted in the death of 37 people and the injury of 386 others including some members of the security forces.

A statement issued by the Iranian interior ministry said that "the detainees include some out-of-town elements who infiltrated the ranks of the demonstrators." [passage omitted]

* Peaceful Demonstration Turns 'Bloody'

94LA0232D London KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Last week a peaceful demonstration by women and children in Najafabad of Esfahan turned bloody. While reliable sources confirm the bloody clash between the revolution guards and the demonstrators, various figures have reached us concerning the numbers of people killed, injured, and arrested.

Some sources say two to three people were killed, other say up to 50 were killed. In the same way, the figures on the number injured range from the tens to the hundreds, and they say up to 1,000 people were arrested.

In any case, what is clear is that there were demonstrations and that the revolution guards (the 8th "Najaf-e Ashraf" Army) went into action to disperse the demonstrators. The reason for the demonstrations was public unhappiness with the appointment of a Friday imam named Purhadi, who replaced the former Friday imam, Gholamhoseyn Izadi, who died two years ago. The people wanted Izadi's younger brother to become Friday Imam in his place, but Khamene'i, on the recommendation of the Central Friday Imam Staff, appointed Purhadi to this position. Purhadi, unlike Izadi, who was a supporter of Ayatollah Montazeri, defended and praised Khamene'i in his Friday prayer service sermons and spoke ill of Montazeri. This speaking ill angered the residents of Najafabad, among whom Montazeri is beloved (Montazeri himself is from Najafabad).

The other preachers in the city, most of whom are Montazeri supporters, advised Purhadi to step down voluntarily so that Izadi's brother could take his place. However, Khamene'i ordered him not to leave his place of service.

This struggle, which lasted two years, ended with thousands of women and children opposed to the Friday Imam appointed by Khamene'i gathering in the city's National Garden, where the congregational mosque is also located, and demanding the removal of Purhadi. It was here that the revolution guard unit came onto the scene and fired on the people, causing deaths and injuries. It is said that they cut off the hair of several of the arrested women as punishment.

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This was the first time the Islamic Republic's armed forces have fired on women and children demonstrators. The event that took place approximately 10 days ago has left the city in a state of turmoil. Observers do not discount the likelihood of further clashes.

Intelligence Chiefs See Mugniyeh as 'Liability'

MM0708140994 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 7 Aug 94 p 7

[Article by Con Coughlin: "Tehran Split Over Fate of 'Iran's Carlos'"; names as published]

[Text] A bitter power struggle has broken out within the Iranian intelligence establishment over whether the Lebanese terrorist known as "Iran's Carlos" should be thrown out of Tehran.

The dispute follows last week's revelation in THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH that Imad Mugniyeh, the terrorist who masterminded the Lebanese hostage crisis, was behind the anti-Jewish bombing campaign that has killed about 120 people and wrought havoc in Argentina, Panama and London.

Mugniyeh, who sought refuge in Tehran in the mid-1980s, has been put in charge of a special unit of the Revolutionary Guards to lead an open-ended terrorist war concentrating on "soft" Jewish targets like community centres and synagogues.

But, following the political and diplomatic fall-out in the wake of the bombing of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish aid centre in London two weeks ago, intelligence chiefs believe that Mugniyeh is now a liability.

From the outset of the Iranian revolution in 1979 there has been an uneasy relationship between professional intelligence officials and the ideological fanatics who run a rival service within the Revolutionary Guards.

Mugniyeh's main attraction to the Guards was his relative anonymity. Although he blew up the American embassy and marine barracks in 1983, and kidnapped a variety of Westerners, including Terry Waite, little is known about Mugniyeh apart from the fact he is a radical Shi'ite Muslim from southern Lebanon who was trained by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The only known photograph of him is an old passport picture taken when he was in his early 20s about two decades ago.

But questions are now being asked about his role. "More mud has stuck than the Iranians expected," said an intelligence official who has followed developments in tehran in the aftermath of the London bombings. "Now they are undertaking a major damage-limitation exercise."

The dispute over Mugniyeh's future primarily concerns DI 15, the department responsible for foreign operations, and the Al Quds brigade of the Revolutionary Guards. According to intelligence sources, there is an Al Quds representative at every Iranian embassy in Europe. All have now been ordered to return to Iran.

Plans were also cancelled to send a sizeable Iranian delegation to yesterday's Islamic Conference at Wembley. Tehran had authorised a team of specialists to attend to recruit for Al Quds.

Tehran aborted the mission because it feared that Britain would detain and its operatives and question them about Iran's intelligence network in Europe.

Nepal

Revenue Department Pursues Currency Traders

BK0608115294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 6 (AFP)—Nepal's Revenue Investigation Department (RID) is investigating 36 companies for alleged involvement in illegal foreign currency dealings and the re-export of foreign goods through Indian ports, a highly placed RID source said Saturday.

"Various import and export firms are suspected to have been involved in unfair activities such as misusing foreign exchange facilities provided to them under letters of credit and evading revenue by not importing specified goods," the source said.

The source added that a recent Indian report said Nepalese business firms were also involved in "illegal deflection of foreign goods which are imported for Nepal via Indian ports."

The source also said the number of firms alleged to have been involved in the illegal activities might be higher than 36 and that further information on the companies would be disclosed after the completion of the investigation.

The source said that the amount of revenue lost by the Nepalese government was about 10.25 million dollars.

The goods involved in the illegal imports included tetracycline, ball-bearings, computer parts, titanium dioxide, doxicycline, video cassettes, plastic cans, shoes, cloves, ready-made garments, vacuum flasks, plastic scraps and other industrial and medicinal raw materials.

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